



10 BEARDS THAT MADE HISTORY

Why did Blackbeard's whiskers smoke?

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

HISTORY

REVEALED

VICTORIA'S SECRETS

Lucy Worsley delves into the Queen's diaries to reveal the woman beneath the crown

LOVE, MAGIC & MURDER

Uncover a spell-binding Ancient Greek whodunnit

TOLKIEN: MASTERMIND OF MIDDLE EARTH

The man behind the fellowship

THE BATTLE THAT SPLIT VIETNAM

Ho Chi Minh's defeat of the French

A-Z OF EXECUTIONS

A brief history of capital punishment



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From a young age, Victoria kept a diary until close to her death



Land of hope and gloria



"Don't let every little feeling be read in your face and seen in your manner." **Queen Victoria** certainly took her own advice. But **as inscrutable as this iconic monarch's public-facing image was**, her personal feelings have since been revealed through her diaries and letters. This issue, we ask **the celebrated historian Lucy Worsley** how these private words have shed light on Victoria's life and deeds from page 44.

JRR Tolkien dealt in more public words. In assessing his life (p28), we explore how this modest Oxford don **created Middle Earth**, the setting of his **much-loved books** *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*. Another heavily influential 20th-century cultural figure was the **record producer Joe Meek** (p54), whose successful but short career was troubled and tormented.

Elsewhere this issue, we take an alphabetical look at the **gruesome history of capital punishment** (p61), try to solve a **mysterious death in ancient Athens** (p67), and untangle exactly which have been the **most brilliant beards in history** (p42). All human life is here.

Paul

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our June issue, on sale 16 May

CONTRIBUTORS



Lucy Worsley
Broadcaster and author Lucy tells us about how the private writings of Queen Victoria paint a portrait of the monarch. See page 44



Kehinde Andrews
Writer and historian Kehinde explains how history has neglected the stories of particular black figures. See page 17



Anita Anand
Anita, a familiar voice on BBC Radio 4, tells us all about her new book, which takes a 1940 assassination as its subject. See page 88

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11k

Soldiers taken prisoner by the Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu in Vietnam. The battle marked the beginning of the end of French influence in the region. See page 36.

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Crimes punishable with death in 19th-century Britain. Capital offences under the 'Bloody Code' included maiming cows and impersonating Chelsea pensioners. See page 61.

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Years between the publication of *The Hobbit* and its follow-up, *The Lord of the Rings*. Author JRR Tolkien didn't consider either of them to be his most important work. See page 28.

ON THE COVER



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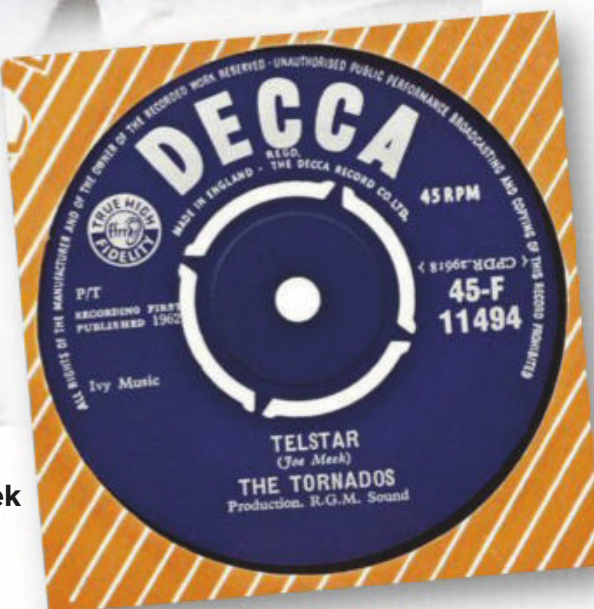
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The real Queen Vic in her own words



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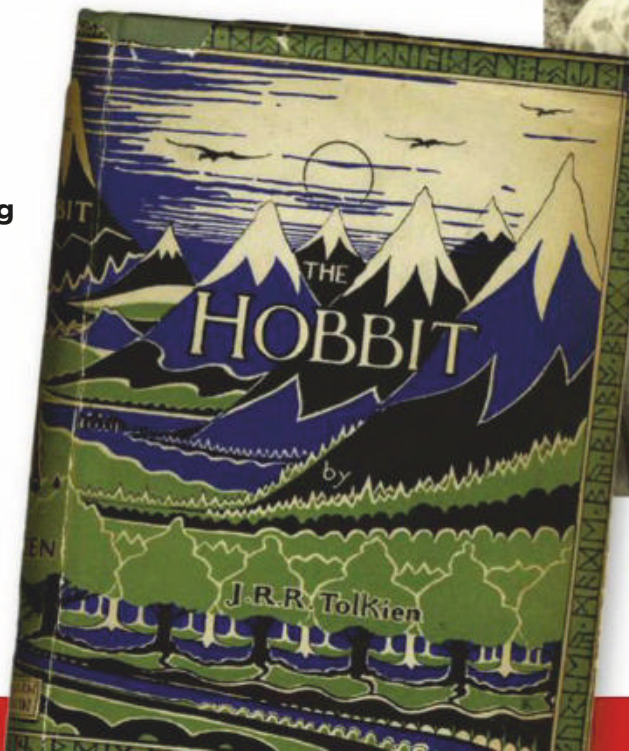
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► Celebrating the life and work of JRR Tolkien, the man behind *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*

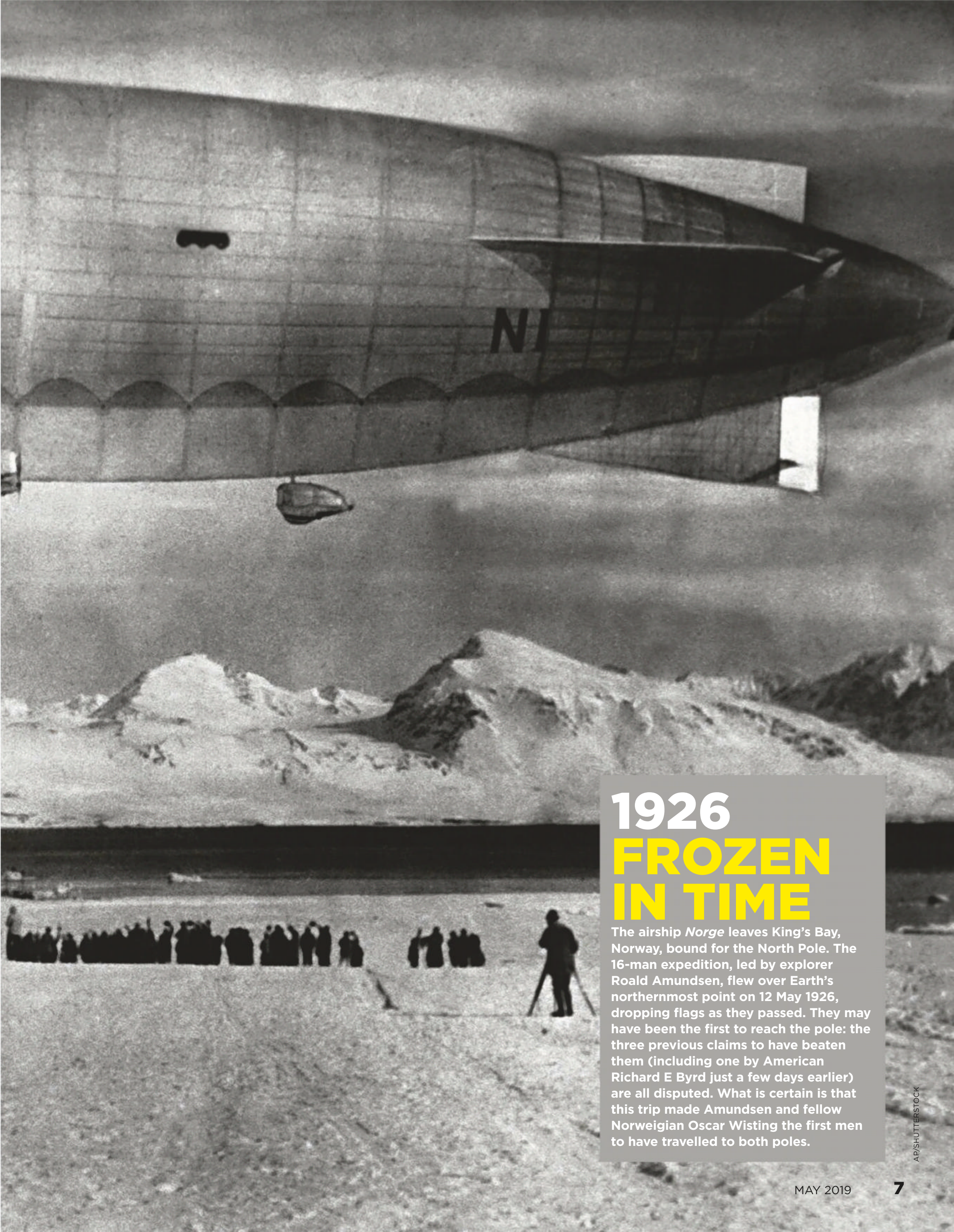


**LIKE IT?
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More details on our special offer on **p26**







1926 FROZEN IN TIME

The airship *Norge* leaves King's Bay, Norway, bound for the North Pole. The 16-man expedition, led by explorer Roald Amundsen, flew over Earth's northernmost point on 12 May 1926, dropping flags as they passed. They may have been the first to reach the pole: the three previous claims to have beaten them (including one by American Richard E Byrd just a few days earlier) are all disputed. What is certain is that this trip made Amundsen and fellow Norwegian Oscar Wisting the first men to have travelled to both poles.

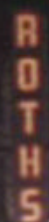
AP/SHUTTERSTOCK



AP/SHUTTERSTOCK

1947 CITY OF LIGHTS

West 46th Street looks down towards Times Square in Manhattan – the heart of New York's entertainment district. Now one of the must-see places for visitors to the Big Apple, Times Square is famed for its iconic electric signs known as 'spectaculars'. The tenants of the area have to, by law, provide these signs and there is a minimum lighting limit, rather than a maximum.



c1862 FIGHT OR FLOAT

The American Civil War, fought between 1861 and 1865, was one of the earliest conflicts caught on camera. The use of photography brought the horror of the battlefield to those back at home, removing the perceived romance of war. This Union soldier is demonstrating a makeshift pontoon that would have been used for scouting and surveying operations. These innovative inventions were eventually used on a bigger scale as floating bridges to move troops across the rivers of the southern states.



OWN A PIECE OF WORLD HISTORY

RECYCLED FROM A 1944 SPITFIRE AIRCRAFT



In the Spring of 1945 a MK IX Spitfire aircraft crashed on the Russian tundra during a Dogfight. A piece of this incredible aircraft is captivated in this watch.

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*The aluminium cut from the Spitfire aircraft is visible around the date window. **Only parts beyond saving in the restoration process were used.

Giving you a fresh perspective on the events and findings from history

HISTORY IN THE NEWS



REMAINS OF THE DAY
The ruins of Whitby Abbey are a fixture of the local coastline

REVAMPED WHITBY ABBEY TO WELCOME HISTORICAL STORYTELLERS

The Storytelling Weekend marks a new chapter for the iconic ruins

Whitby Abbey, sat on a headland overlooking the North Yorkshire harbour town, has reopened following a £1.6 million revamp by English Heritage. With a newly designed museum and refreshed visitor centre, there are now greater opportunities to discover the history of the abbey, from its 7th-century foundation to its acquisition by the Cholmley family following its dissolution.

The abbey has been a strong inspiration to writers, a literary connection continued with the inaugural Storytelling Weekend

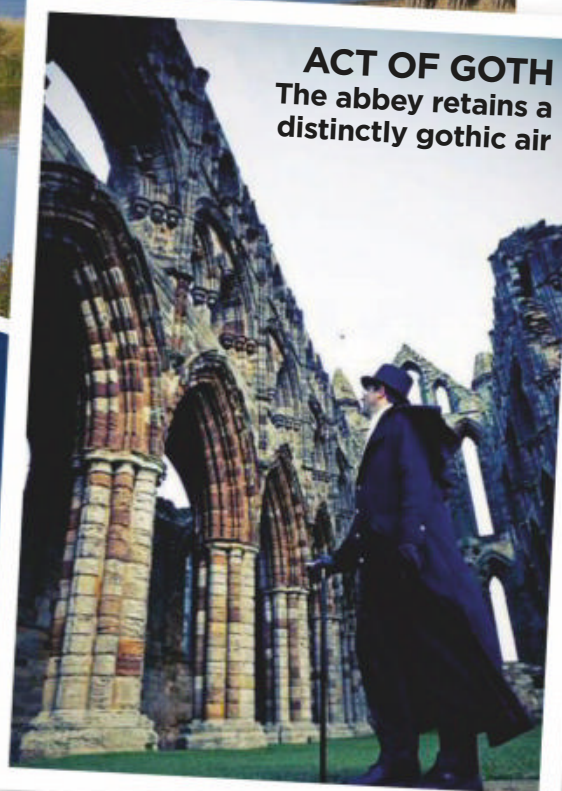
being held over the bank holiday weekend of 25-27 May. There will be a similar event at St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury on the weekend of 6-7 June, part of a wider Myths and Legends campaign that explores how tales and folklore have shaped our understanding of history.

Over the Whitby weekend, performers portraying famous writers will deliver monologues, wander the ruins meeting visitors, and lead story writing workshops. Bram Stoker will be a key figure due to his enduring connection with the town;

his vampire Dracula arrives at Whitby disguised as a dog. Other writers represented include Agatha Christie, Charlotte Brontë, Elizabeth Gaskell and Lewis Carroll, all of whom had links with the area.

"Some will be instantly recognisable, some less so," says event manager Paul Robson. "The authors will be of an age where they have had at least one of their main works published, so they will all be at different stages of their careers."

Visit www.english-heritage.org.uk and search 'Storytelling Weekends'



ACT OF GOTH
The abbey retains a distinctly gothic air

SIX OF THE BEST...

Artefacts damaged or destroyed by accident....p14



YOUR HISTORY

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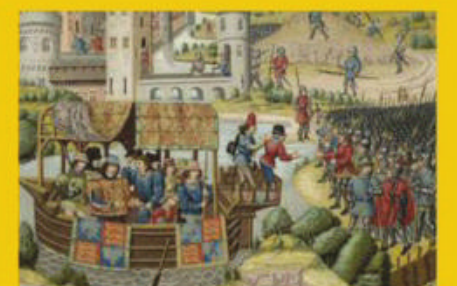
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IN THE NEWS

DETECTORIST DAMAGES NEOLITHIC MONUMENT DIGGING FOR TREASURE

The 5,000-year-old tomb in Jersey has been pockmarked by holes

Metal detectorists have unearthed a wealth of treasures lost under the surface of Britain, deepening our knowledge of different cultures and delighting museum visitors – that is, when detecting is done responsibly. One man on the Channel Island of Jersey, however, recently demonstrated the destruction it causes when done badly.

The damage has been afflicted on a buried stone monument built by Neolithic people. Using a trowel, the lone detectorist dug a series of holes in one of the 13 dolmens (single-chamber tombs) at La Hougue de Vinde on the island's southern tip, a Grade I-listed site containing Jersey's earliest human-made structures. Some holes had been backfilled, while others were left.

Heritage organisations, including Jersey Heritage, the Société Jersiaise and the National Trust Jersey, have stressed the site's historical importance. "We are shocked and saddened that La Hougue de Vinde has been deliberately

damaged, and for what appears to be personal gain," their joint statement reads. "The majority of people are incredibly respectful of these ancient sites, but we felt the need to highlight such illegal activity and to remind people of the importance of the public to help protect ancient dolmens."

This is not the first time the site has been victim to vandalism; some of the stones were

previously stolen. Permission is required for detecting, which the miscreant did not have. Ken Rive, president of Jersey Metal Detecting, says: "We believe in responsible metal detecting that abides by legal restriction and ensures that any finds can be properly researched and recorded. We would ask anyone unsure of the permissions required to metal detect in Jersey to contact the club as soon as possible."

TROWEL AND ERROR
The damage to the single-chamber tombs was inflicted by an over-keen detectorist



SIX OF THE BEST... ARTEFACTS DESTROYED BY ACCIDENT

No-one told these accidental vandals that treasures require a delicate touch



1 THOMAS JEFFERSON'S WINE, US

What would a 1787 Chateau Margaux that belonged to US President Thomas Jefferson taste like? Can't say, as New York wine merchant William Sokolin broke the bottle in 1989.



2 NAZCA LINES, PERU

Greenpeace's stunt of laying a banner reading 'Time for change! The future is renewable' next to the giant geoglyphs backfired when they left a line of footprints on the desert floor.



3 ST MICHAEL, LISBON

The danger of the selfie. A man backed into and smashed an 18th-century statue of the archangel at the National Museum of Ancient Art while preparing himself for the perfect shot.



4 TUTANKHAMUN, EGYPT

The iconic pharaoh got an unwanted shave when his beard broke off during cleaning in 2014. Eight museum employees were prosecuted, but not before they glued it back on.



5 MING VASE, UK

The elderly owner of this blue-and-white porcelain lamp was horrified to find out that it was actually a Ming vase from the 15th century – especially as it had a hole drilled into it.



6 CAVE DRAWINGS, NORWAY

A 5,000-year-old carving of a skier was vandalised by two Norwegian youths when, in a bid to improve the drawing by making it stand out more, they carved along its lines.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

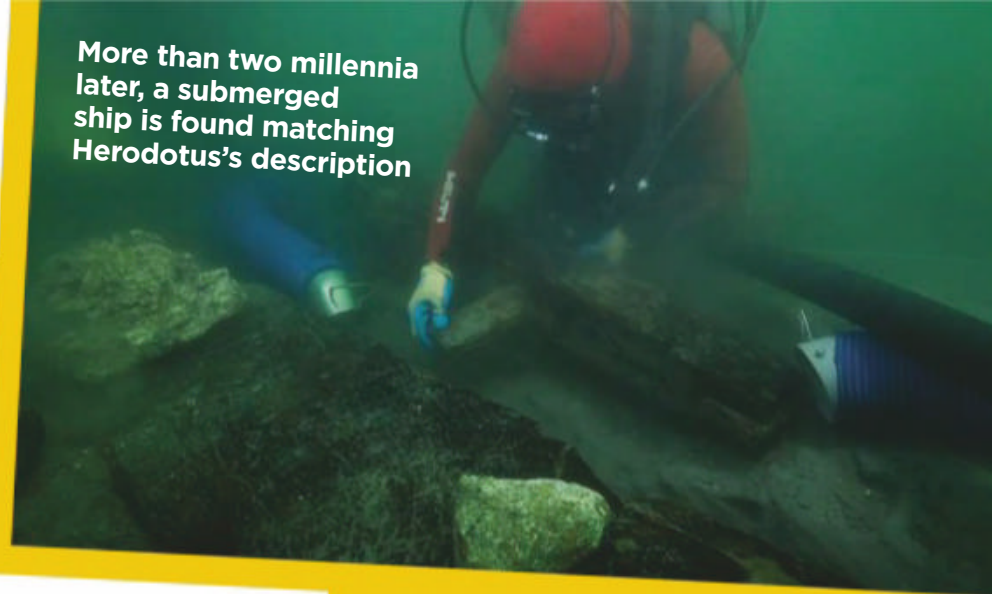
STAMP OF APPROVAL

How the Aztecs made their mark centuries before the buzz of the tattooist's needle

It remains unknown if – and is probably unlikely that – tattoo parlours existed during the time of the Aztecs. Instead, those wishing to enhance their bodies with inky designs simply did it themselves, thanks to these body stamps. The stamps, made from clay and featuring a variety of patterns, would be dipped into paint or dye before being pressed firmly onto the recipient's skin. They were also used to make clothing more exciting – their inexpensiveness allowed even the poorest in Aztec society to look decidedly sharp and fashionable.



More than two millennia later, a submerged ship is found matching Herodotus's description



IN THE NEWS

HERODOTUS'S MYSTERY SHIP FINALLY FOUND

A wreck in the Nile proves the 'Father of History' right

Writing of his travels to Egypt in 450 BC, the Greek historian Herodotus described the construction of an unusual barge, with planks arranged like bricks, wooden ribs called tenons, the rudder passed through a hole in the keel, a mast of acacia wood, and papyrus sails. This ship, called a baris, appeared in 23 lines of his *Histories*, but no evidence of one had been found – until now.

At the sunken port city of Thonis-Heracleion, discovered on the Egyptian coast in 2000, there are more than 70 vessels submerged. One, designated as Ship 17 by the scuba-diving archaeologists, was constructed in a way not seen before and matched the description of the baris. The well-preserved wreck would have been 28 metres long and used to transport goods along the Nile. It probably sank in the fifth century BC.

"It wasn't until we discovered this wreck that we realised Herodotus was right," Damian Robinson, director of the Centre for Maritime Archaeology at the University of Oxford, told *The Guardian*.

HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life



MANCHESTER, 1903

Far from their tribal homes, a group of Native Americans pack into a Manchester tram. They have not come to England to sightsee, but for a tour of Buffalo Bill's Wild West – a hugely popular outdoor show featuring gunslinging, horse riding and recreations of battles between 'cowboys and Indians'. When the show moved on, however, a chief named Charging Thunder chose to stay behind with his horse-trainer wife, Josephine. He lived the rest of his days as George Edward Williams in Gorton.

See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral [@marinamaral2](https://twitter.com/marinamaral2)



YOUR HISTORY

Kehinde Andrews

The professor of Black Studies at Birmingham City University explains how the stories and significance of particular figures in black history have been obscured



Kehinde Andrews's latest book, *Back To Black: Retelling Black Radicalism for the 21st Century*, is published by Zed Books

Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

The assassination of the first president of the Congo – Patrice Lumumba – in 1961. His murder, a collaboration between counterrevolutionaries in the Congo, the CIA and Belgium, destabilised the country, solidifying Western power in Africa. The continent is the richest in the world in terms of resources, and Lumumba represented Pan-Africanism – aimed at uniting Africa to control her own destiny. Had he lived, perhaps the promise of revolution would have been fulfilled.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

Queen Nanny, who fought against slavery in Jamaica. She was an Ghanaian Asante leader before being stolen into slavery and taken to the Caribbean. She escaped the plantation and joined the Maroons – Africans who had been free since Spain abandoned their plantations in 1655. Queen Nanny led the Winward Maroons and it took only six of her soldiers to defeat a British battalion, and she refused to sign a treaty that would have meant returning runaways.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

Parque Memorial Quilombos dos Palmares in Brazil. More enslaved Africans were taken to Brazil than any other country. Rebellion and resistance were common anywhere there was slavery, especially in Brazil, where Africans who had freed themselves established Palmares between 1605 and 1695. At its peak, it was home to as many as 20,000 former slaves, presenting a serious challenge to colonial rule. Figures like Zumbi, the last leader of Palmares, should be fixtures in the teaching of history.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

When we think of the Garvey Movement, the image of Marcus Garvey immediately comes to view. But the organisation which he founded, the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA), had five million members across 50 countries in the 1920s. This was not about just one man. Indeed, his second wife, Amy Jacques Garvey, may have been more important than her husband to the movement. She took a key leadership role in the UNIA and also curated the key works which influenced how the organisation is remembered.

“Figures like Zumbi should be fixtures in the teaching of history”

Protests against the 1961 murder of Congo president Patrice Lumumba



THE DAILY MIRROR, Monday, June 16, 1919.

"HOW I FLEW THE ATLANTIC" BY CAPT. ALCOCK

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BRITAIN'S MAGNIFICENT ATLANTIC AIR TRIUMPH



Lieut. Brown, who navigated the machine.



Miss Kathleen Kennedy, Lieutenant Brown's fiancée, receiving congratulations.



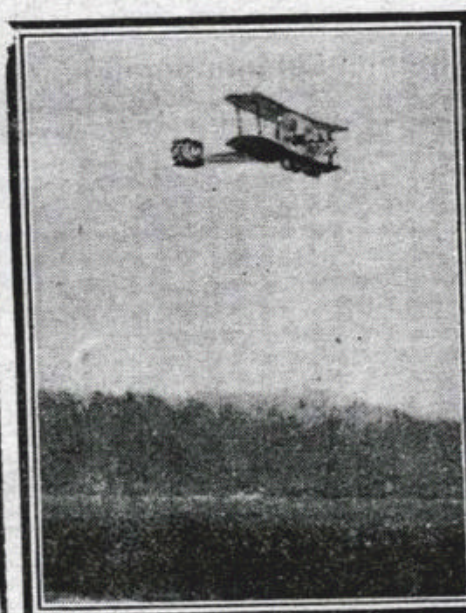
Captain Alcock, the triumphant pilot.



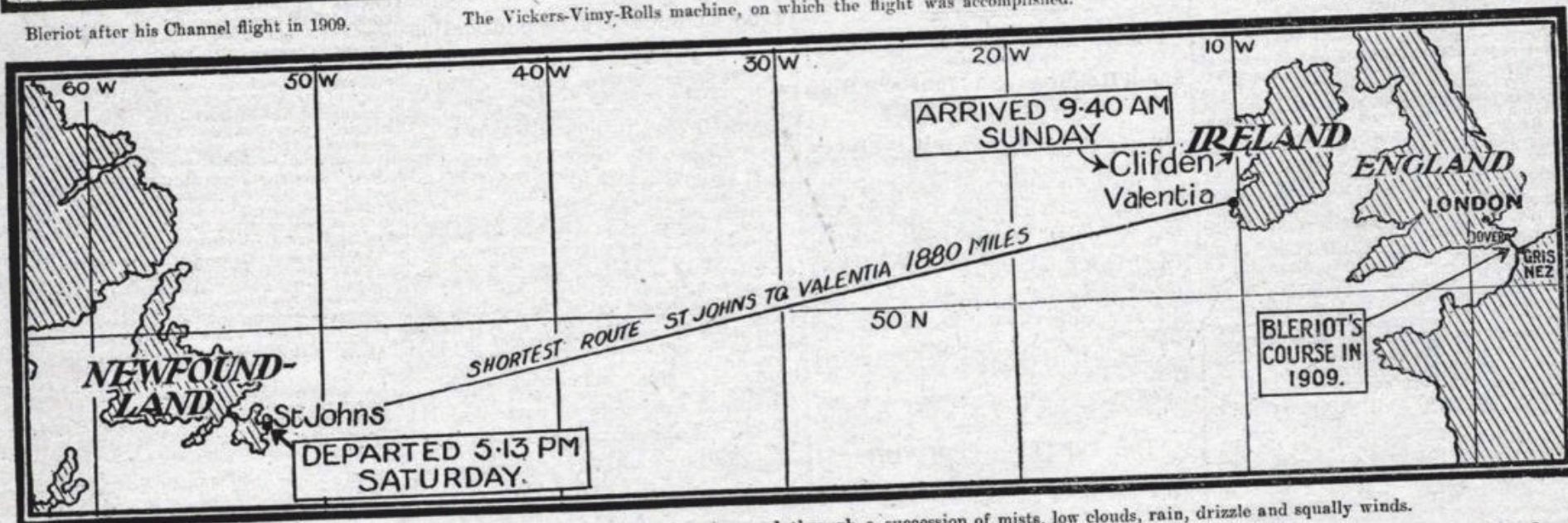
Bleriot after his Channel flight in 1909.



The Vickers-Vimy-Rolls machine, on which the flight was accomplished.



The Vickers-Vimy in the air.



A map showing the course of the historic flight. The airmen passed through a succession of mists, low clouds, rain, drizzle and squally winds. Less than ten short years ago the world hailed Bleriot's flight across the Channel as a veritable triumph of aviation—and, indeed, it was. Yesterday came the thrilling news that Captain Alcock and Lieutenant Brown, two British airmen, had flown across the Atlantic in a single uninterrupted flight of about sixteen hours. They triumphed where Hawker magnificently failed, over a course ninety times the distance of Bleriot's flight. That is the measure of the progress of flying in the last ten years.

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

ALCOCK AND BROWN CROSS THE ATLANTIC

The British aviators were the first to make the journey non-stop in a plane


It was the kind of prize to turn heads. In 1913, the *Daily Mail* offered the not-insignificant lure of £10,000 to “the aviator who shall first cross the Atlantic in an aeroplane in flight from any point in the United States of America, Canada or Newfoundland to any point in Great Britain or Ireland in 72 continuous hours”.

By the time World War I broke out the following year, the prize was still unclaimed, but the quest resumed after the war ended in 1918. It particularly piqued the interest of John Alcock, a young pilot who, having retired from the RAF, had taken employment as a test pilot for aircraft manufacturer Vickers. After signalling his intention to take up the challenge, the company chose Arthur Brown as his navigator.

On 14 June 1919, the duo took to the skies of Newfoundland in their modified Vickers Vimy bomber, but it was to be no easy journey. Within an hour of being airborne, the plane's wind-powered electrical generator broke. It was their sole source of heating in the open cockpit, and they had to do without it for the remainder of the flight. Radio contact was also lost as a result, along with the cockpit intercom. The latter became even more problematic when an exhaust pipe burst: the racket became so great that conversation without the intercom was rendered impossible.

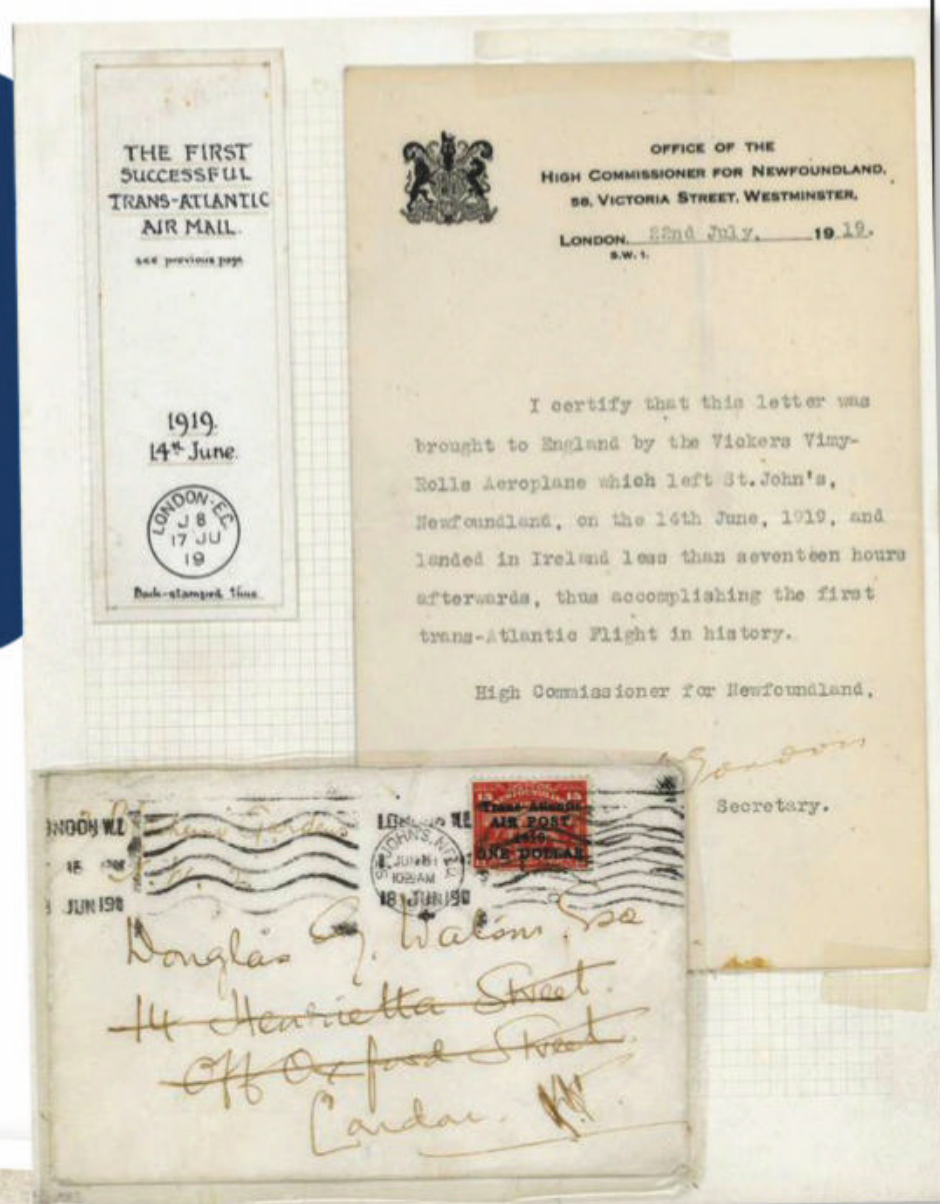
The weather also conspired against them. In thick fog, Alcock nearly flew into the sea on a couple of occasions,

while a snowstorm welcomed them in the darkness of 3am. On reaching the Irish coastline, the pair mistook a green bog near Clifden in County Galway for a firm grassy field, which made for a decidedly inelegant landing. No matter. Alcock and Brown had just completed the first non-stop transatlantic flight. And in good time, too: 16 hours and 12 minutes, less than a quarter of that stipulated by the competition rules.

Aside from the cash prize, the duo's success saw them both knighted within a few days. But tragedy would soon strike. Alcock was flying a new Vickers amphibian plane to the Paris Air Show later that year, when he crashed in heavy fog near Rouen and suffered fatal injuries. He was just 27 years old. 

Winston Churchill (left) presents the duo with their prize, funded by the *Daily Mail*; it was one of several aviation challenges the newspaper promoted from 1906 to 1930

Alcock and Brown also ferried 196 letters across the ocean, making their flight the first transatlantic airmail delivery



THIS MONTH IN... 1381

Anniversaries that have made history

THE PEASANTS' REVOLT BREAKS OUT

England turns violent as angry agricultural workers flex their muscles

It remains unclear whether John Bampton had any inkling of what was to happen on the morning of 30 May 1381. As a member of parliament and justice of the peace, he had summoned residents from neighbouring villages to Brentwood in Essex for them to explain (or, ideally, to pay) their outstanding poll tax charges.

When the first village – Fobbing, represented by one Thomas Baker – explained that no more money would be forthcoming, the attempted arrest of Baker turned violent. Three of Bampton's clerks were killed by rural workers armed with sticks and bows.

It wasn't a one-off incident. Injustice hung heavy in the air, with rebels across southeast England mobilising to voice their discontent. Within a week, a Kentishman named Wat Tyler had been elected as the rebellion's leader.


Marching on London to confront those in the corridors of power was the principal tactic. The rebels' grievance wasn't just about the poll tax, a charge levied on all citizens above the age of 15 to help fund the ongoing Hundred Years' War with France. They were also calling for an end to serfdom, the forced labour of rural workers. A little over 30 years previously, the Black Death had wiped out at least a third of England's population, meaning that, with much less rural labour available, wages had noticeably increased. This had cut into landowners' profits, leading to the introduction of emergency parliamentary legislation that fixed workers' wages at pre-plague levels.

There was also dissatisfaction about the increasing power of the royal legal system and the rumoured replacement of the elected mayor of London with a figurehead appointed by the Crown.

Tyler and the rebels arrived in the City of London on 13 June, where they were joined by many locals sympathetic to their cause. Jails were attacked and the Savoy Palace, the residence of John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, destroyed. Anyone with conspicuous links to Richard II's royal government lost their life.

The next day, King Richard – then still only 14 years of age – met the rebels and appeared sympathetic to their demands, immediately issuing charters to repeal serfdom. This breakthrough came too late for the Lord Chancellor and the Lord High Treasurer, however, who were killed when rebels stormed the Tower of London.

Another meeting between Richard and the rebels was held the following afternoon. This one was far less conciliatory and culminated in the King's party stabbing Tyler and, later, publicly beheading him. The rebellion was instantly rudderless and the Crown rapidly gained the upper hand thanks to the backing of the London militia.

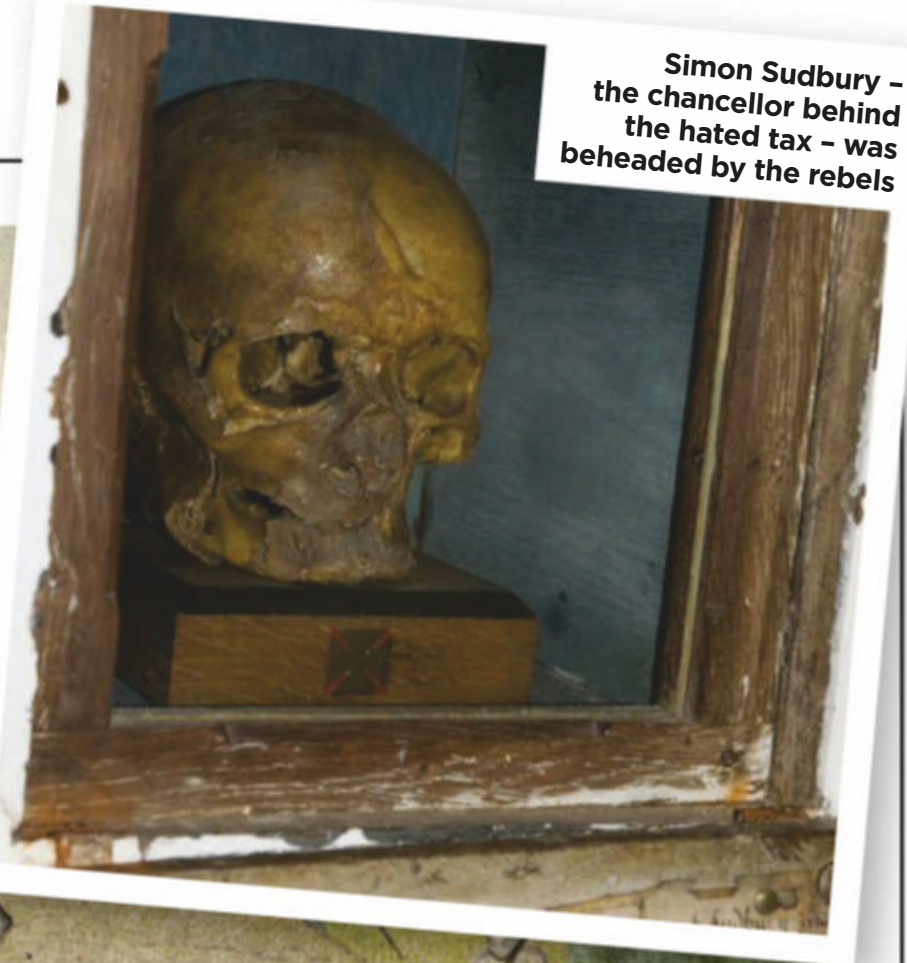
While the chaos in London calmed, rebel fervour broke out across England during the remainder of 1381, with individual rebellions suppressed and order restored. While Tyler hadn't been able to overhaul English society, some significant gains had been achieved during the revolt. It would be almost 300 years until the government of the day chose to impose another poll tax. 

“Things cannot go well in England ... until there will be neither serfs nor gentlemen, and we shall all be equal”

John Ball, radical priest and prominent rebel



Simon Sudbury –
the chancellor behind
the hated tax – was
beheaded by the rebels



Richard II meets the rebels;
he later agreed to their
demand to end serfdom, but
revoked the law once the
rebellion had been put down

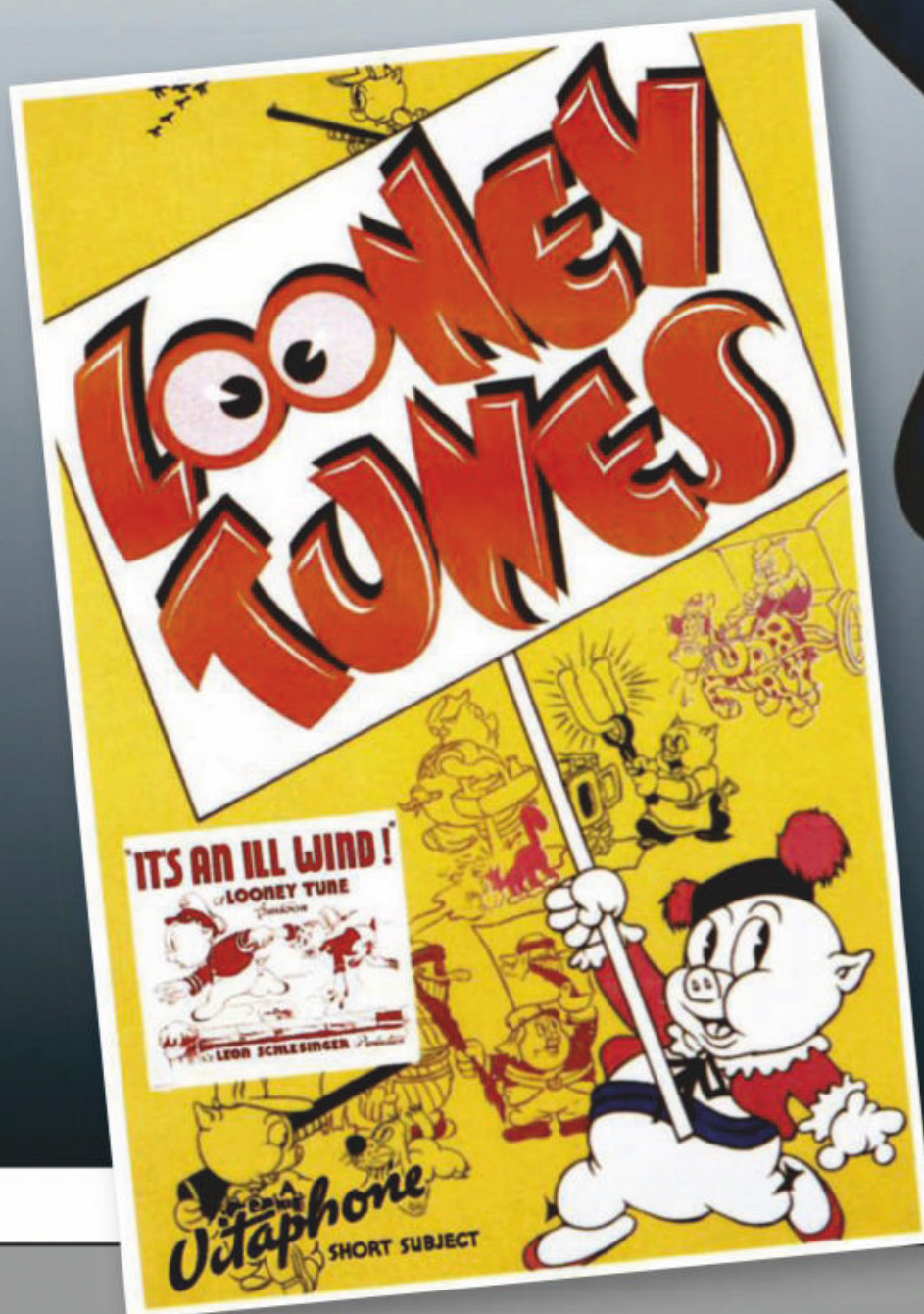
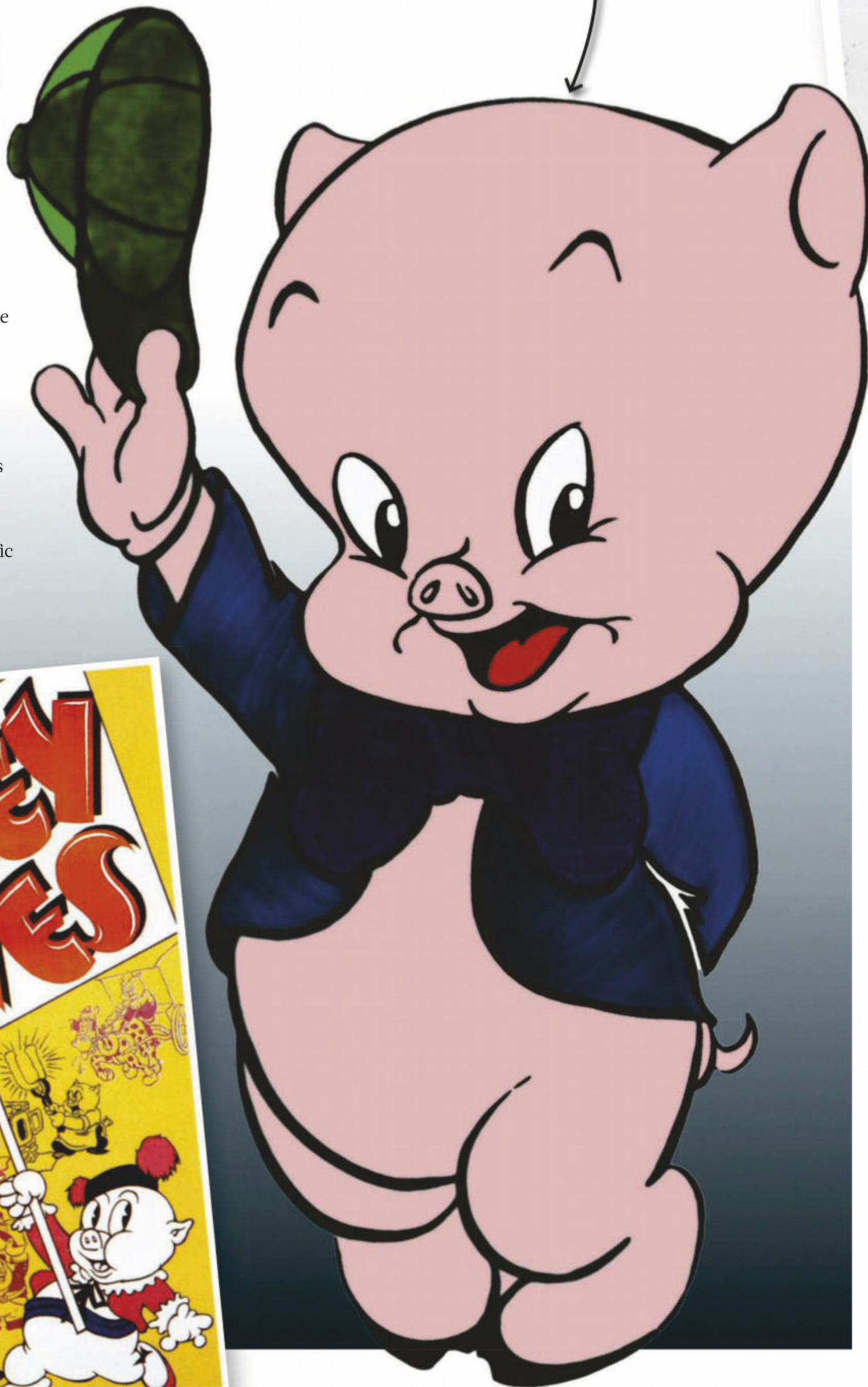
TIME CAPSULE 1935

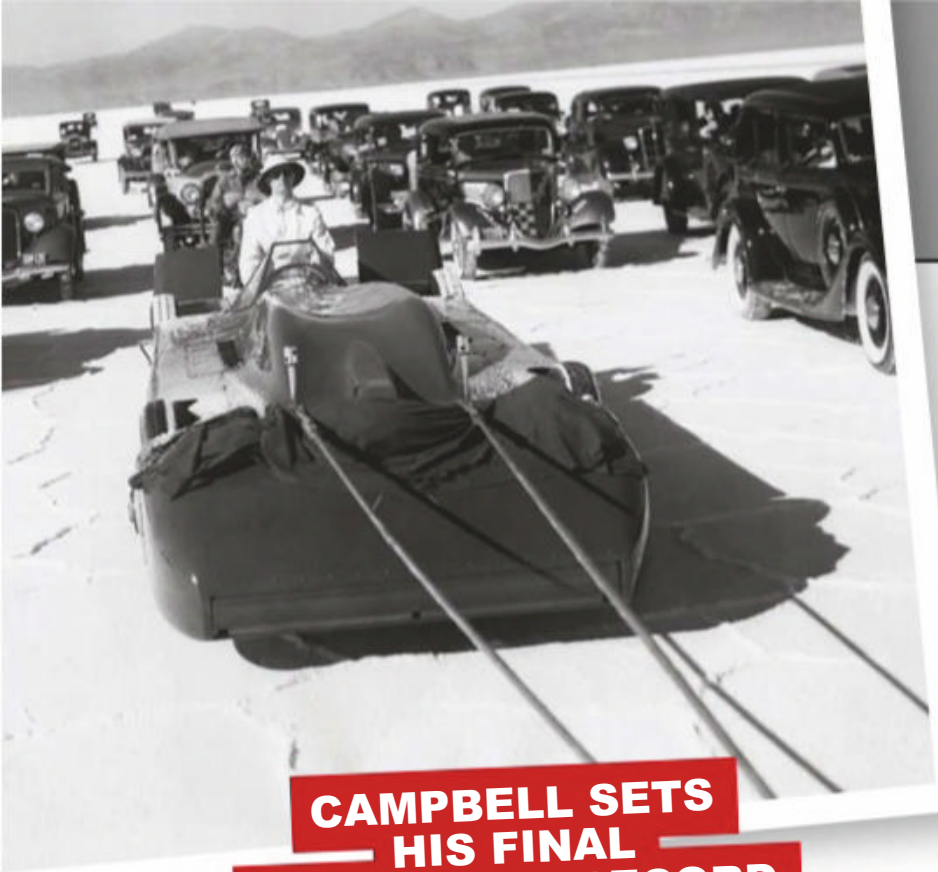
Snapshots of the world from one year in the past

LOONEY TUNES' PORKY BRINGS HOME THE BACON

Inspired by Walt Disney's success with *Silly Symphonies*, Warner Brothers wanted to create their own animated short musical films. The result, *Looney Tunes*, ran from 1930 to 1969 and became one of the key components of the golden age of American animation. It became beloved for a host of enduring characters – including Bugs Bunny, Roadrunner and Daffy Duck – but the first to earn widespread appeal was Porky Pig. Introduced in 1935, Porky was known for his stutter and his shy, naïve personality, which made him the ideal sidekick to some of the studio's wackier figures. Mel Blanc, one of the most prolific voice actors for *Looney Tunes*, asked for Porky's signature phrase at the end of each cartoon to be included on his gravestone: "That's all folks".

Mel Blanc took over as Porky's voice in 1937, because his predecessor, Joe Dougherty, had a real stutter, which led to recording sessions overrunning





CAMPBELL SETS HIS FINAL LAND SPEED RECORD

Sir Malcolm Campbell was a British pilot during World War I, but his real passion was automobile racing. Between 1924 and 1935, he broke nine land speed records in his cars, all called Blue Bird. At Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah on 3 September 1935, he became the first person to reach 300mph in an automobile, touching 301.337mph. His previous Blue Bird had been rebuilt for the attempt and featured a considerably more powerful Rolls-Royce R V12 engine. Campbell died in 1948, but his son Donald carried on his father's legacy, breaking both land and water speed records in 1964.



MONOPOLY IS FIRST SOLD

The cause of many a Christmastime family argument, the board game Monopoly first launched in 1935. In 1904, Elizabeth Magie developed The Landlord's Game with the intention of illustrating how greedy landlords can exploit their tenants. The game became popular across the US, with people making their own boards (such as the one pictured). In the 1930s, unemployed Philadelphian Charles Darrow came across it being played by some friends. Asking for the rules to be written down for him, Darrow slightly modified the game and sold it to successful toy and game manufacturers Parker Brothers. They began selling the game in 1935, with the streets based on Atlantic City, New Jersey.

HITLER VIOLATES THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES

As tensions across Europe started to simmer, 1935 saw German Chancellor and Führer Adolf Hitler take steps that would set the world on the path to war. Reversing the restrictions placed on Germany in the aftermath of World War I by the Treaty of Versailles, he announced a programme of rearmament, with the Luftwaffe introduced and submarines ordered – directly violating the treaty. Conscription was reintroduced and the anti-Semitic Nuremberg Laws were declared, revoking citizenship from Jews and prohibiting their marriage and sexual relations with ethnic Germans. Within weeks the laws were extended to include Roma, black people and their children.



ALSO IN 1935...

28 FEBRUARY

The 10th-century Viking ship burial known as the Ladby ship is discovered on Funen island. The only one of its kind to be found in Denmark, it contained grave goods and horse skeletons.

22 MARCH

Reza Shah asks foreign delegates and the League of Nations to begin referring to the country of Persia as 'Iran' in all official communication and correspondence.

10 JUNE

Dr Bob Smith takes his last drink, a day now considered to mark the founding of Alcoholics Anonymous in Akron, Ohio.

13 JULY

The ceremonial opening of the Becontree estate in East London takes place. With a population of more than 100,000, it is still the largest public housing development in the world.

16 JULY

The world's first parking meters are installed in Oklahoma City. Costing five cents per hour, they quickly spread across the US as a source of revenue and a solution to overcrowded parking.

DIED: 19 MAY TE LAWRENCE

Archaeologist, officer and diplomat, TE Lawrence's exploits in the Middle East earned him the title Lawrence of Arabia. While stationed in Egypt, he assisted in the Arab Revolt against the Ottoman Empire, exploits recounted in his autobiography, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*. He died in a motorcycle accident in Dorset, aged 46.



BORN: 1 OCTOBER JULIE ANDREWS

English actress and singer Julie Andrews was the sweetheart of the 1960s musical thanks to her acclaimed four-octave range, taking lead roles in Disney's *Mary Poppins* and the film adaption of Rodgers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music*. In 1997, she underwent throat surgery that irreparably damaged her singing ability.



GRAPHIC HISTORY

REWIND

THE LIFE OF AN EDWARDIAN SERVANT

Everyday life for a domestic servant in Edwardian townhouses was often far removed from the splendour of their surroundings

The Edwardian period in Britain was a time when society still closely resembled that of the Victorian age with clear class divides, but it was also a transformative time. In 1911, there were more than 1.3 million people (mainly women) employed as domestic servants in Britain – compared to 1.2 million working

in agriculture and around 971,000 coal miners. The upper classes could afford to have housemaids, cooks and butlers to ensure their homes ran efficiently, with minimal effort from the family. A typical Edwardian townhouse would include accommodation for servants who would live alongside the family they served.

6ft

Ideal height for a footman, whose pay was influenced by both his stature and looks – any shorter than 5ft 10in, and he would not be able to earn the top wage

4am

Start time for a scullery maid, whose job it was to clean out the grates and relight the fires in the kitchens so breakfast could be prepared

SERVANTS' BEDROOMS

Accommodation was provided, but these rooms were the smallest in the house, furnished sparsely and often in the attic. They would also be separated into male and female wings to deter fraternisation

BEYOND THE BAIZE

Servants needed to move around the house, but they had to do so unseen. The answer was a separate network of corridors and staircases, hidden behind a green baize door

THE BUTLER

The butler was the main link between the world upstairs and that below. He was on hand whenever he was needed and would greet or dismiss visitors to the house. Butlers were normally bachelors so they could devote all of their time to their role

THE DECLINE OF DOMESTIC SERVANTS

After the war, the number of people in service dropped – though not because of demand. Many of the aristocracy struggled to afford the upkeep of their country estates but the middle classes flourished and began wanting help at home. The war, however, depleted the country of its young men and those who did return home wanted more out of their lives. Many women had taken on roles in factories and offices that men fighting at the front had left and these offered new opportunities out of service.

17 hours

Average hours worked by a domestic servant per day. Most had one afternoon a week off as well as Sunday mornings for church

THE HOUSEKEEPER

Head of the female staff, the housekeeper was a focal point of authority and integrity. She managed the accounts and was always referred to as 'Mrs', even if she wasn't married

LEFTOVER LUNCH

Servants could expect to eat the dinner scraps left behind from 'upstairs' meals

A JOB TO BE PROUD OF

Domestic service had once been a prestigious job for the working classes – it was secure and often included accommodation and food, which took the burden off families. There was a hierarchy among domestic servants, roles such as a lady's maid allowed you to be close with the family you served and potentially offered you a chance to travel.

RING THE CHANGES

In larger homes, bells were installed to summon servants. As technology evolved, these became electrified

MAID TO MEASURE

Maids had specific duties: for example, parlour maids maintained the living rooms, but would never be expected to empty a chamber pot, or wash the dishes

CONDUCT BOARD

Many households would have rules of conduct displayed in the servants hall. These included rules on where different servants were and were not allowed to go in the house, how servants were supposed to move around and carry out their duties almost invisibly and a ban on 'followers' – boyfriends and potential suitors.

SERVANTS' HALL

Typically in the basement, this was where domestic servants ate and spent their limited down time

INVISIBLE ENTRY

Servants weren't permitted to use the main entrance to the house: they had to use a separate staircase leading outside via a rear or side door

£20

Average annual salary of a maid in the early 20th century. Kitchen maids and maids-of-all-work would be paid less

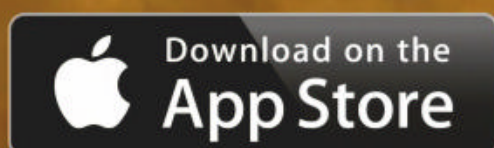
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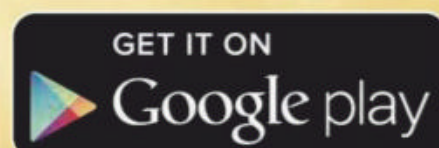
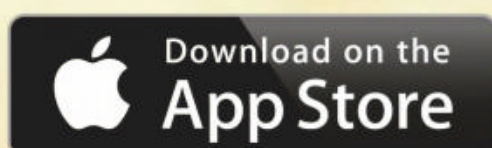
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Jonny Wilkes discovers how
love, war and a fascination with
language led JRR Tolkien to create
his Middle Earth – a realm rooted
not in fantasy lore, but in the sleepy
hollows of middle England

JRR Tolkien relaxes in an idyllic spot in his beloved Oxford in 1972, a year before his death



Stanley Unwin held a not unreasonable belief about children's book publishing: the best way to know if the book was good was to have a child read it first. With that in mind, and being a publisher himself, he often took manuscripts home for his son, Rayner, to read. One day, the manuscript was a fantasy story, filled with wizards, dragons, elvish languages, mountainous treasures, magic rings and a race of creatures much like humans, but smaller.

"Bilbo Baggins was a hobbit who lived in his hobbit-hole and never went on adventures," began Rayner's report, complete with spelling errors. "At last, Gandalf the wizard and his dwarves persuaded him to go. He had a very exiting time fighting goblins and wargs. At last they got to the lonley mountain; Smaug the dragon who gawreds it is killed and after a terrific battle with the goblins he returned home – rich! ... It is good and should appeal to all children between the ages of 5 and 9."

Rayner received a shilling and his father, founder of George Allen & Unwin, was convinced to publish. *The Hobbit*, it quickly turned out, appealed to far more

than the predicted age group. Published on 21 September 1937, it sold its initial print run by the end of the year. Its success heralded a new name in fantasy literature, JRR Tolkien, and a new world called Middle Earth. Readers of all ages couldn't get enough.

Later in life, Tolkien reflected that "One writes such a story not out of the leaves of trees still to be observed ... but it grows like a seed in the dark out of the leaf-mould of the mind". He wrote *The Hobbit* and his masterpiece follow-up *The Lord of the Rings* while leading a decidedly ordinary life as an Oxford don. Life was comfortable and every day pretty much the same. So the 'leaf-

mould' that gave life to his bestselling epics had gathered in his youth, and been added to by loss, friendship, passion for languages, war and love.

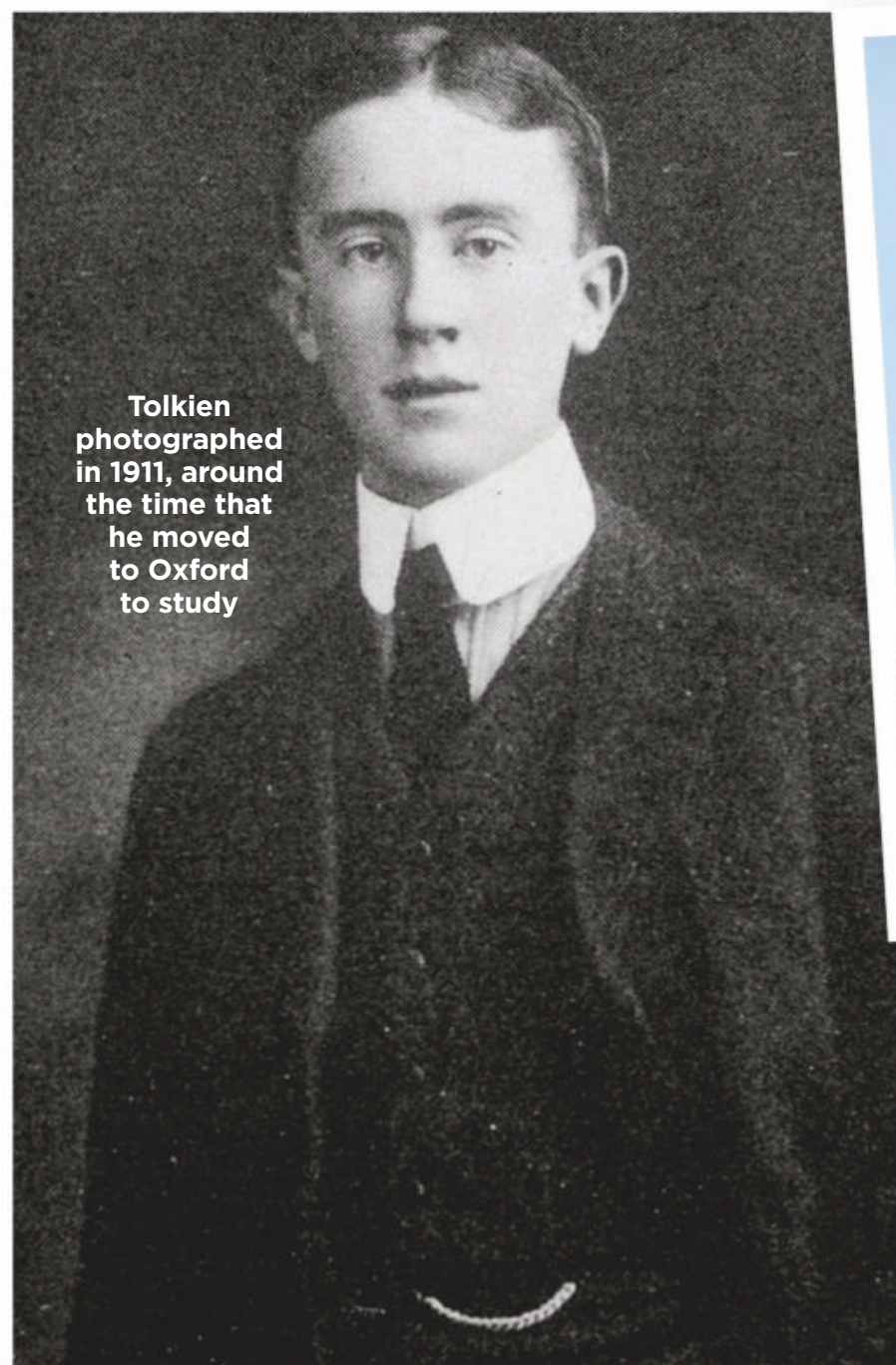
Tohn Ronald Reuel Tolkien – Ronald, to family and friends – met his wife of more than 50 years in 1908, when he was 16. Edith Mary Bratt was three years his senior, a gifted pianist and a fellow lodger in the house of Mrs Faulkner in Birmingham. Their friendship, formed through secret whistles and midnight feasts, soon blossomed into romance.

Tolkien's Catholic guardian, Father Francis Xavier Morgan, disapproved of the match. Edith was both a Protestant and a distraction as he studied for a scholarship to Oxford, so Morgan told him not to pursue the relationship until he turned 21. All communication was then prohibited after the love-struck pair were spotted several times on secret bicycle rides or chance meetings. Tolkien grew so despondent that it actually came as a relief when she moved to Cheltenham. "Thank God!" he wrote in his diary, such was his deep respect for Morgan.

The kindly priest had taken Tolkien as his ward, along with his younger brother Hilary, when they were orphaned. They had lost their father, Arthur, at ages too young to remember him properly. Arthur had been an English bank manager in Bloemfontein, South Africa – where Tolkien was born on 3 January 1892 – and died in early 1896 due to complications from rheumatic fever. At the time, his wife Mabel and the two boys were away in England.

With no wish to return to South Africa, Mabel moved to Sarehole on the outskirts of Birmingham. The effect this had on Tolkien was profound. Despite his mother struggling with a meagre income, Sarehole came to represent an ideal childhood. He was in the countryside, living a simple rural existence, able to watch the mill in action or pick mushrooms from the field >

"*The Hobbit's* success heralded a new name in fantasy literature"



Tolkien photographed in 1911, around the time that he moved to Oxford to study



ABOVE: Perrott's Folly in Edgbaston inspired the two towers in *The Lord of the Rings*

RIGHT: The rural idyll of Sarehole Mill, on the edge of Birmingham, fuelled the fertile imagination of the young Tolkien





The author's imagination might have been busy mapping out Middle Earth, but several real-world locations around the country would also provide inspiration

1. SAREHOLE MILL, BIRMINGHAM

"A kind of lost paradise," was how Tolkien described the area he lived as a young boy. He would sneak into the mill to watch the machinery before being chased away by the miller, whom Tolkien called the 'white ogre'.

2. PERROTT'S FOLLY, BIRMINGHAM

There are several towers in Birmingham said to have inspired the colossal towers of Middle Earth, including the Edgbaston Waterworks, the University Tower and this 29-metre tower in Edgbaston, close to where the Tolkiens lived.

3. THE EAGLE AND CHILD, OXFORD

Members of the Inklings literary group, including Tolkien and CS Lewis, would gather in the 'Rabbit Room' at the back of the pub to discuss their latest works of literature.

4. WOLVERCOTE CEMETERY, OXFORD

Tolkien and his wife Edith share a grave in the Catholic section of the cemetery. Under their names are 'Beren' and 'Lúthien', the man and elf who fell in love in one of Tolkien's most-beloved tales.

5. FOREST OF DEAN, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Puzzlewood was a spot that Tolkien enjoyed visiting, and it is easy to see that the ancient trees, twisted paths and hidden caves inspired Middle Earth forests like Fangorn, Mirkwood and Lothlórien.

6. CHEDDAR GORGE, SOMERSET

Tolkien came to Somerset for his honeymoon, including a day trip to the Mendips' famous caverns. He later wrote that they were the basis of the Glittering Caves behind Helm's Deep.

7. HOTEL MIRAMAR, BOURNEMOUTH

A favourite holiday spot for Tolkien and Edith, usually staying in what is now Room 205. A bungalow in nearby Poole would be their final home together before Edith died in 1971.

8. PEMBROKE COLLEGE, OXFORD

Having been made Professor of Anglo-Saxon in 1925, Tolkien was working at Pembroke while he wrote *The Hobbit* and most of *The Lord of the Rings*.

9. ST MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH, WARWICK

Shortly before shipping out to the Somme in World War I, Tolkien married Edith Bratt in Warwick on 22 March 1916.



ABOVE: Tolkien saw active service in World War I, but only after he completed his degree

LEFT: At Oxford, Tolkien became very close friends with his literary colleague CS Lewis



TOP: Tolkien pictured in 1914 with his fellow undergraduates of Exeter College, Oxford. He graduated the following year with a first-class degree in English language and literature

ABOVE: The Eagle and Child pub in Oxford, scene of the regular meetings of Inklings, Tolkien's literary group

Years later, as an Oxford professor, he was an instrumental figure in the Inklings literary group. The loose collection of academics, writers and literary enthusiasts met for conversation, readings of works-in-progress and drinking in The Eagle and Child pub. There, Tolkien would have tested out chapters from *The Lord of the Rings* to an encouraging audience, not least his friend CS Lewis.

It was in such groups that a younger Tolkien demonstrated his exemplary talents for language and philology. He had a natural skill for picking up languages, and a passion for inventing his own. Tolkien loved the sounds of words, whether in Greek or Gothic, Welsh or Finnish, Old Norse or Anglo-Saxon. He read greedily, but nothing struck him as much as a couplet in the Old English poem the *Crist of Cynewulf*: "Hail Earendel brightest of angels, above the Middle Earth sent unto men." These words formed the cornerstone for much of his early writing as he conceived his own Middle Earth.

Despite hours spent writing or inventing languages, socialising or studying (he did too little of the latter in his first years at Oxford), Tolkien eagerly counted the days until his 21st birthday. After nearly three years apart, he intended to write to Edith to renew their relationship. As midnight struck on 3 January 1913, he put pen to paper: "How long will it be before we can be joined together before God and the world?"

But when he got her reply, it seemed Edith had moved on. She was engaged to someone else. "I began to doubt you Ronald and to think you would cease to care for me," she wrote, but added that had changed now she received Tolkien's letter. With the hope of winning her heart again, he travelled to Cheltenham on 8 January. The two walked and talked for hours, and by the end Edith had pledged to break off her engagement and marry Tolkien.

The woman he loved was back in his life. She converted to Catholicism and moved to Warwick for him, while he switched from studying classics to English language and literature so as to better suit his interest in philology. Tolkien had cause to be optimistic – until World War I broke out.



While friends and contemporaries rushed to sign up to fight, Tolkien hoped to finish his degree first. It was not a popular move, but he realised he could undertake military training in Oxford at the same time. He also worked on his own language, Quenya. By 1915, Tolkien had achieved a first and enlisted as a second lieutenant in the Lancashire Fusiliers. After months of further training, and only when it became clear he was about to be deployed to France, did he marry Edith, on 22 March 1916.

His battalion was bound for the Western Front in time to relieve depleted

of a local farmer, whom he called the 'black ogre'. When he later wrote about the Shire, he was thinking of Sarehole.

His bliss lasted only a short time. In 1900, Mabel converted to Roman Catholicism, to the outrage of her family, who stopped financial support, and then she moved the family so the boys could be nearer King Edward's School. Tolkien felt the loss of the countryside keenly. Then in 1904, his mother succumbed to diabetes. From then on, Tolkien, a cheerful and sociable person at heart, could sink into deep despair at the fear of everything beautiful in the world being lost.

He found solace in his Catholicism and through fellowship. At school, he had a close group of friends – Rob Gilson, Geoffrey Smith and Christopher Wiseman – who made up the Tea Club, Barrovian Society (or TCBS), which met to discuss literature or share artistic endeavours. Then, when he went to Oxford in 1911 to study Classics at Exeter College, Tolkien joined the rugby, debating and essay clubs, and founded a literary club of his own, the Apolausticks.



Tolkien and Edith pictured outside their Oxford home before their retirement move to the peace of Dorset

forces at the Somme. Tolkien spent some four months in and out of the trenches, enduring what he called the “animal horror” of war, before contracting a fever and being sent back to England.

Most of his men were wiped out, and more distressing news came when he heard that two of his closest friends from his school club, the TCBS, had been killed. Just before Geoffrey Smith was hit by a shell, he wrote to Tolkien the poignant words: “May God bless you, my dear John Ronald, and may you say the things I have tried to say long after I am not there to say them, if such be my lot.”

Tolkien took this to heart and decided it was time – that he had gathered enough ‘leaf-mould’ – to write a grand mythology on which to ground his invented languages. This marked the beginning of what has since been called his ‘legendarium’ (works relating to Middle Earth and the broader world) and the beginning of the book he would never complete, *The Silmarillion*.

Ongoing illnesses prevented Tolkien from returning to the Western Front, so time was spent writing or with Edith, by now pregnant with their first child, John. They would have two more sons, Michael and Christopher, and a daughter, Priscilla. When Tolkien was stationed in Hull in 1917, they went for a walk in the woods near Roos and, stopping in a grove filled with hemlock, Edith danced for him. He never forgot that moment as it inspired his beloved romance of Beren, a man, and Lúthien, >

Tales for the ages

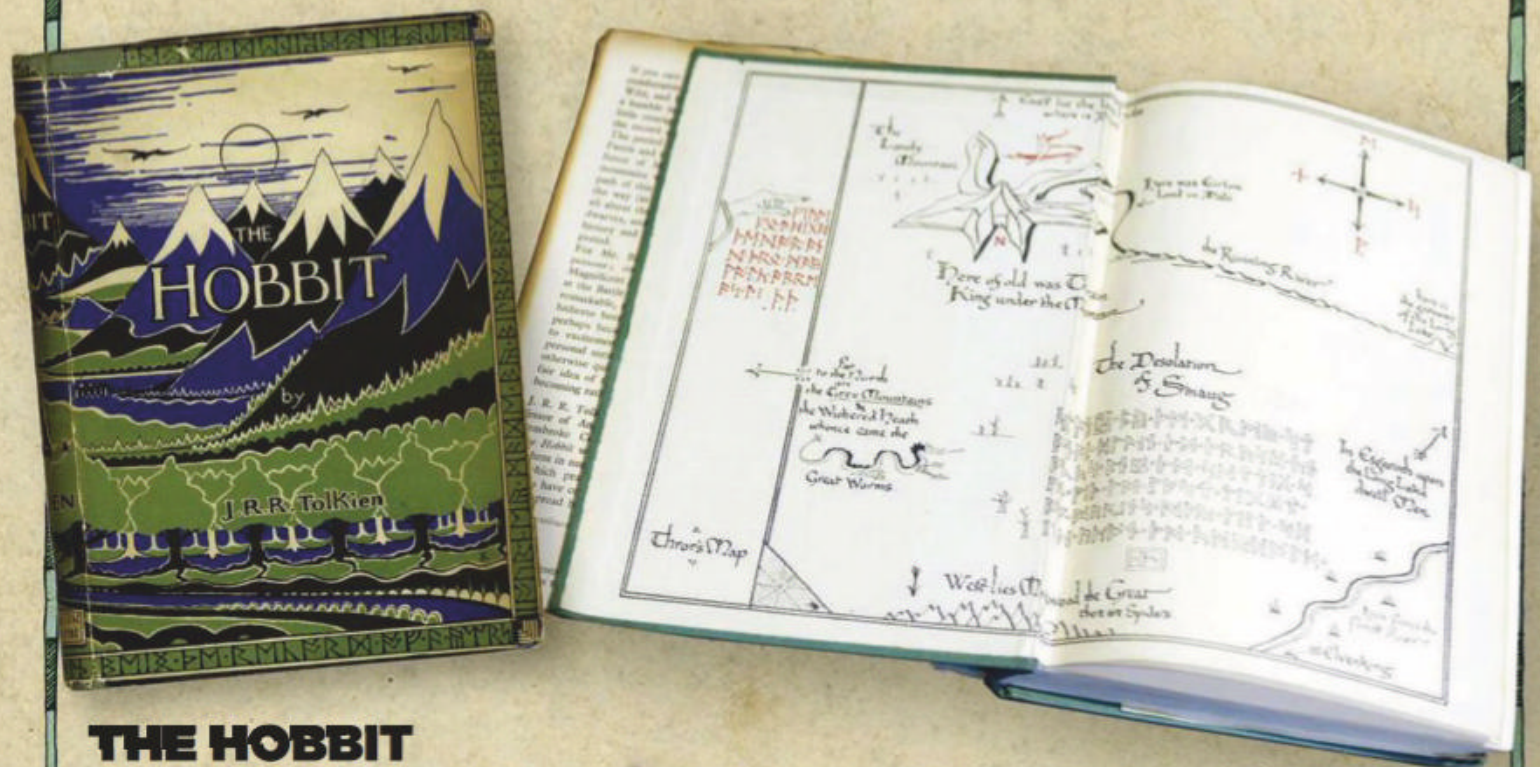
Tolkien couldn't be described as the world's most prolific author, but his books enjoy long-lasting and constantly renewing love

JRR Tolkien began work on what would become *The Silmarillion* during World War I, but it would still not be finished at the time of his death at the age of 81 on 2 September 1973. He published *The Hobbit* two years before World War II, and it took another 17 years after that for his long-awaited sequel, *The Lord of the Rings*, to hit the shelves.

While he accomplished extraordinary things with his writing, Tolkien led an ordinary life in many ways, even after

becoming a world-famous author. He tried to respond to as many fan letters as he could, and initially his number remained in the telephone directory – so fans from across the globe would ring at all hours to ask him for details about the minutiae of his mythology.

And with son Christopher publishing his father's work ever since – not to mention Peter Jackson's blockbuster movies – there's an enduring fascination in these great works of fantasy and Middle Earth.



THE HOBBIT

Bilbo the hobbit reluctantly joins an expedition to retrieve the fabulous treasure of the dwarves being hoarded in the Lonely Mountain by the dragon, Smaug. The party of dwarves was led by the wizard Bladorthin and the chief dwarf Gandalf; they were the original names of Gandalf the Grey and Thorin Oakenshield respectively. *The Hobbit* was developed from stories Tolkien told to entertain his children and the book launched him to fame when first published in 1937. It sold out quickly and had to be swiftly reprinted, this time with several coloured illustrations from Tolkien himself.



THE LORD OF THE RINGS

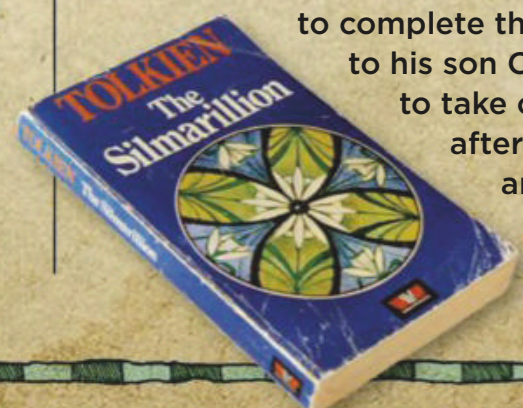
Usually divided into three volumes, Tolkien meant *The Lord of the Rings* to be a single work that followed the quest to destroy the One Ring and see the King of Gondor return at the end of the Third Age.

In a sign that they didn't think it would sell well, publishers George Allen & Unwin offered Tolkien a half-share in profits once production expenses had been paid off, and split the novel in three to boost sales. Such caution was not needed as *The Lord of the Rings* became a bestseller.

THE SILMARILLION

Tolkien considered this, not *The Lord of the Rings*, to be his masterpiece. *The Silmarillion* charts the creation of the Universe and the ancient peoples of the First Age, but he never finished tinkering and rewriting over the five decades from its inception. There were so many versions to correlate – and conflicting, confusing details to rectify and craft into a narrative

– that Tolkien never knew how to complete the book. It fell to his son Christopher to take on the job after his death and was eventually published in 1977.



RIGHT: Rayner Unwin who, as a ten-year-old, suggested his father should make Tolkien a published author

THIS PIC: Martin Freeman and Sir Ian McKellen star in Peter Jackson's big-screen imagining of *The Hobbit*



“*The Lord of the Rings* took Tolkien a full 12 years to write”

an elf. Those names can now be seen on the headstone Tolkien and Edith share.

After the war, Tolkien worked on the *New English Dictionary* – concentrating on the letter W – and as professor in English Language at Leeds. He returned to Oxford in 1925 as professor of Anglo-Saxon at Pembroke College, specialising in Old and Middle English. Until his retirement in 1959, he worked tirelessly: tutoring undergrads, preparing classes, and giving lectures, most notably his seminal talk on *Beowulf*. His academic publication record was far from impressive, but he was more focused on his teaching. He was required to give at least 36 lectures a year, but he did not feel that covered the subject adequately so, in one year, he gave 136.



olkien was sitting in his study at home on Northmoor Road, marking an examination

paper, when he came across a blank page. Without thinking, he scribbled down the line, “In a hole in the ground there lived a hobbit”. He didn’t know what a hobbit was, or why it lived in a hole, but he wanted to know more.

He jotted down a story that he thought his children would enjoy, and that became an embryonic manuscript of *The Hobbit*. It got passed around his friends in the Inklings until a copy found its way to an employee of George Allen & Unwin publishers named Susan Dagnall, who immediately saw its potential and passed it to Stanley Unwin. From there, it went to Unwin’s savvy son, Rayner.

Its success prompted George Unwin & Allen to ask Tolkien for a sequel. It couldn’t be *The Silmarillion* as he hoped – there weren’t any hobbits in that – so he began drafting a new story without any idea of what it would be about. By the time it was eventually finished, *The Lord of the Rings* had taken Tolkien a full 12 years to write and another five to get published. World War II had been declared and won (Tolkien called Hitler a “ruddy little ignoramus”), his children grew up and left home, and he changed professorships from Pembroke to Merton College.

All the while, he was changing details, such as the hero’s name to Frodo from Bingo Bolger-Baggins, or adding layers of mythology that had never been seen in a fantasy novel before. Tolkien took world-building to new heights, as tall as the book’s two towers themselves. It was no longer a children’s book. When he finally delivered *The Lord of the Rings* to the publishers, it was accompanied

with a note, saying: “It is written in my life blood, such as that is, thick or thin; and I can no other.”

Yet *The Lord of the Rings* had taken so much time and was so weighty that Stanley Unwin had grown unsure about whether to proceed with publishing it. The decisive opinion, as with *The Hobbit* almost two decades earlier, fell to Rayner, now, of course, an adult. He described the novel as a “brilliant and gripping story”, and argued for its publication, despite the risk of it possibly losing money. It was a work of genius, said Rayner, and that was enough for his father. Again. 🎯

The couple’s gravestone includes the names Lúthien and Beren, the in-love elf and man whose story was a recurring motif of Tolkien’s work



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

To what degree have the imaginative worlds of Tolkien’s work enhanced English literature?

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THE BATTLE THAT SPLIT VIETNAM

France's catastrophic defeat at Dien Bien Phu in northwest Vietnam in May 1954 ended its hopes of maintaining any influence in Indochina and set the stage for the monumental Vietnam War. **Julian Humphrys** explains...





Joining the battle from the skies, paratroopers swell the French ranks at Dien Bien Phu. The Viet Minh, though, would soon take the upper hand

IN A NUTSHELL

French Indochina refers to an amalgamation of colonial territories in southeast Asia ruled by France from 1887 onwards. During World War II, the colony was occupied by Japan, who ousted the French. Following the Japanese surrender at the war's end, Vietnamese independence was declared by the Viet Minh, a communist coalition led by Hồ Chí Minh. However, France quickly resumed control, causing the outbreak of a war of independence in 1946 – the First Indochina War. The battle of Dien Bien Phu extinguished French influence in the region.

BATTLE CONTEXT

WHEN

20 November 1953 to 7 May 1954

WHERE

Dien Bien Phu, northwest Vietnam

WHO

Viet Minh
(General Võ Nguyên Giáp)
50,000 troops, 15,000 support troops, 250,000 civilians

French Republic
(Colonel Christian de Castries)
2,800 French, 2,900 Foreign Legion, 2,900 Africans, 5,500 Indochinese

RESULT

Viet Minh victory

LOSSES

Viet Minh
c23,000 killed and wounded
French
c2,000 killed, 6,000 wounded, 11,000 prisoners



Both sides suffered a huge amount of casualties during the 56-day siege

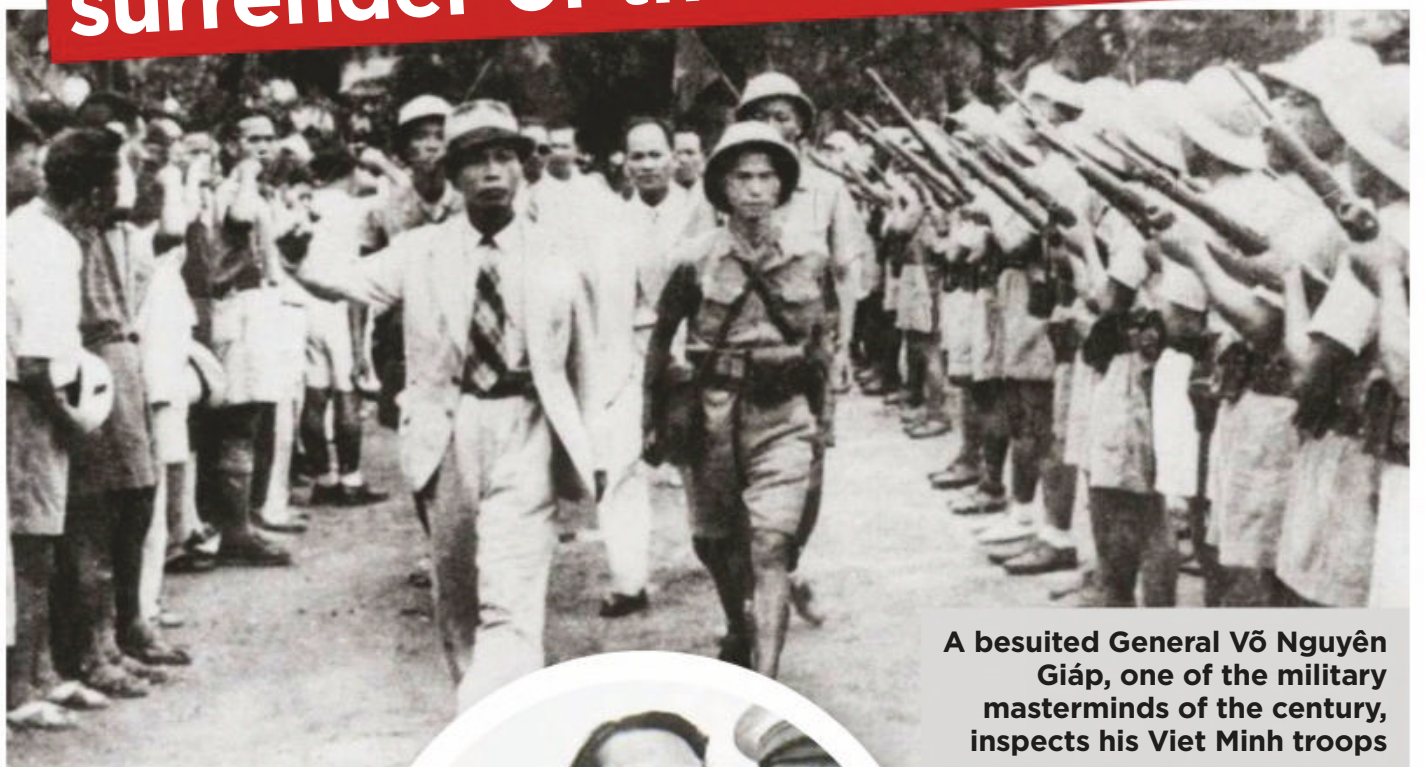
LEFT: The French top brass study a map of the Dien Bien Phu valley to assess their best options

The French had always been rather half-hearted about the war against the Viet Minh. Whereas the brunt of Britain's post-war military efforts was borne by National Servicemen, the French decided not to send any conscripts to fight in Vietnam. The result was that their generals were always short of boots on the ground and the 'French' forces that fought in the war were actually an amalgam of local forces, troops raised from their other colonies, soldiers from the French Foreign Legion and a smattering of French regulars.

By 1953, the French government had faced the inevitable. Starved of men and short of popular support, they were never going to be able to force the surrender of the Viet Minh. It was now simply a case of strengthening their position at the bargaining table. To achieve that end, General Henri Navarre, their new military commander in Indochina, was instructed to improve the military situation in the country.

Although Navarre planned to use the bulk of his reserves in a sweep against Viet Minh forces in the south of Vietnam, he realised that the greatest threat to French interests actually lay in the north of the country, especially as Viet Minh forces had moved into neighbouring Laos. Laos had just been granted independence from France, but it remained an ally and Navarre felt he had to defend it, particularly as there

"Starved of men and support, the French were never going to force the surrender of the Viet Minh"



A besuited General Võ Nguyên Giáp, one of the military masterminds of the century, inspects his Viet Minh troops

THE ANGELS OF DIEN BIEN PHU

The only Frenchwoman at Dien Bien Phu wasn't supposed to be there. Geneviève de Galard was a 29-year-old French military nurse who had volunteered to serve in Indochina on aircraft evacuating wounded soldiers to hospital. On 28 March, her transport plane suffered damage to an oil tank while landing in darkness at Dien Bien Phu and was unable to take off again. At daybreak, the Viet Minh artillery destroyed the plane and damaged the runway. Galard was now stranded in the valley for the next six weeks, helping to care for the wounded. When, after a brief period of captivity, she returned to France, the media dubbed her 'the Angel of Dien Bien Phu'. But less was said about the other women in the beleaguered garrison: the 18 Algerian and Vietnamese sex workers of the two mobile brothels accompanying the French forces into the valley. As casualties mounted, they too served as nurses and four were killed by Viet Minh shellfire. After the surrender, the Algerians were allowed to go home; the Vietnamese were sent off for 're-education'.

RIGHT: Geneviève de Galard was a flight nurse who found herself stranded and in demand



was a real danger that the Viet Minh would then head south to threaten Cambodia and southern Vietnam.

Navarre had other reasons to be concerned about the north. The T'ai people of the extreme northwest corner of Vietnam were actually supporters of the French, but their base at Lai Chau

was coming under increasing Viet Minh pressure. And then there was opium. The poppy fields of the northwest were a major source of income, which both sides wanted to control: the Viet Minh to raise money to purchase weapons, the French to fund special operations.

Bearing all this in mind, Navarre came up with a plan. French forces would set up a fortified camp in the northwest, which could act as a base for raids and other offensive operations,

DIEN BIEN PHU – THE VALLEY OF DEATH



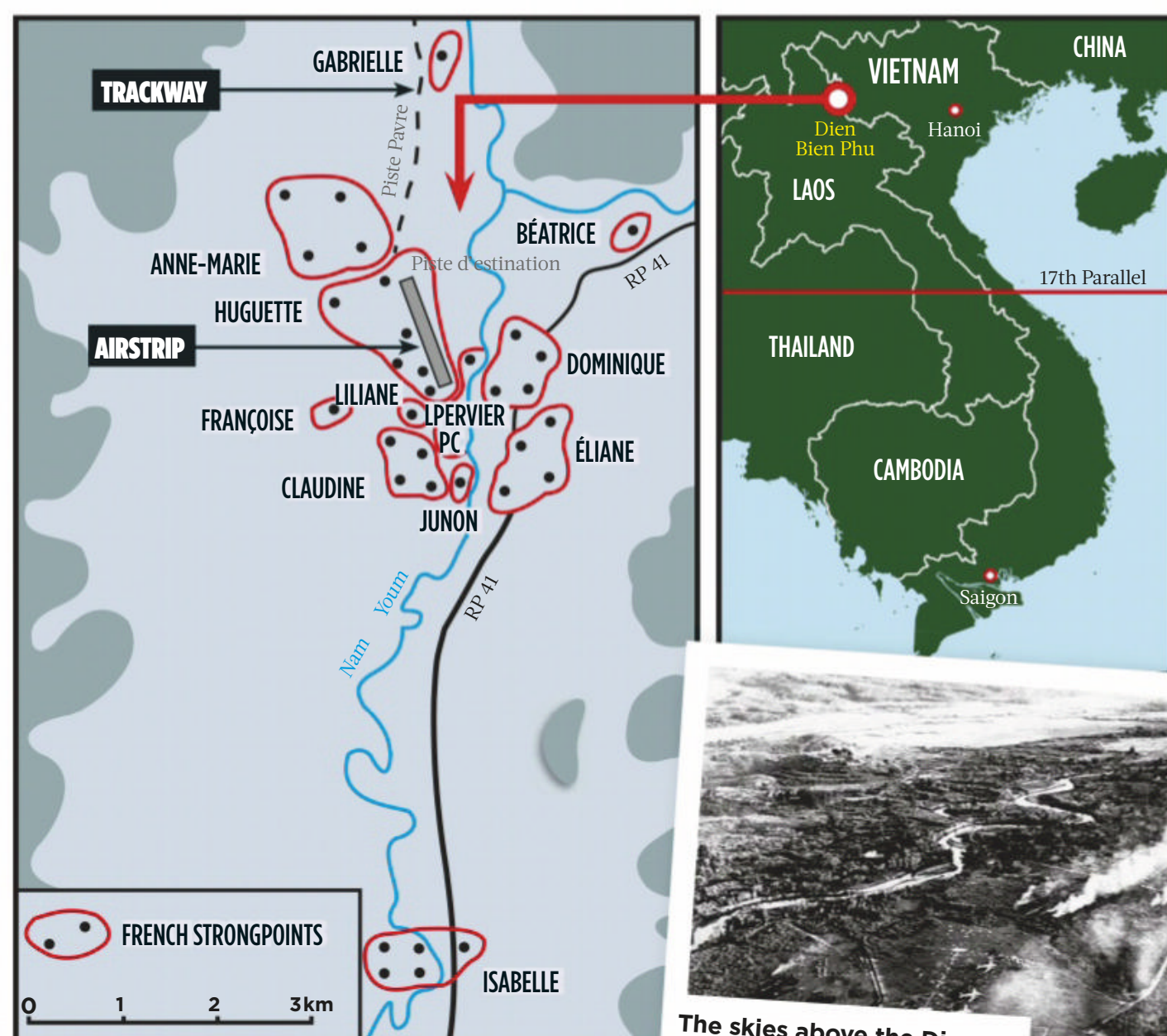
The cigarette-smoking Colonel Christian de Castries was entrusted with overseeing the French offensive

block the Viet Minh's supply route into Laos and serve as a new headquarters for the beleaguered T'ai. And if the Viet Minh tried to attack it, so much the better. They would be drawn into a conventional battle in which superior French training and firepower would prove decisive.

INTO THE VALLEY

For his new base, Navarre selected Dien Bien Phu, a mountain valley with an airstrip, about 300km northwest of Hanoi. In choosing this site, the French made two assumptions. First, that they would be able to resupply their troops there by air and, second, that the steep wooded mountains overlooking the valley would prove an impenetrable barrier for the Viet Minh artillery. They would be wrong on both counts.

On 20 November 1953, the first French troops parachuted into the valley, quickly dispersing



the Viet Minh troops in the area and seizing the airstrip. Over the following weeks, a further 12,000 troops would be flown into Dien Bien Phu together with 30 artillery pieces and even a squadron of tanks, which were delivered in pieces and then assembled on the ground.

The commander of the garrison was Colonel Christian de Castries, a swashbuckling cavalryman who Navarre believed would be ideally suited for the offensive operations he envisaged being launched from the base. The French set about fortifying their position by constructing about three dozen strongpoints, which were grouped together into clusters. In true Gallic fashion, each of these was given a woman's name – Annemarie, Beatrice, Claudine, and so on.

These strongpoints were rather hastily built and not really secure enough for a protracted siege, but the French weren't anticipating such an event. In any case, they were sure that they had nothing to fear from the Viet Minh guns. After all, Colonel Charles Piroth, the jovial one-armed commander of the French artillery at Dien Bien Phu, had assured them that the Viet Minh would never be able to get their guns up the mountains that overlooked the base. Even if they did, his own guns would destroy them the moment they gave away their position by

opening fire. Piroth's confident words would come back to haunt him; the French had made the fatal mistake of underestimating their enemy.

The Viet Minh commander, General Võ Nguyên Giáp, has been described as one of the greatest strategists of the 20th century. Like the French, the Viet Minh leadership believed that a military victory would strengthen their hand at the conference of great powers that was due to begin in Geneva and it was down to Giáp to deliver such success. Identifying Dien Bien Phu as the place where such a victory could be won, he concentrated nearly 50,000 combat troops in the area, seizing the high ground around the base and surrounding the French garrison.

It was a triumph of logistical planning. To ensure that his troops had the ammunition and supplies they needed to take on the French, Giáp mobilised a quarter of a million Vietnamese civilians to build scores of new roads and construct hundreds of bridges. Civilian porters transported supplies on animals, specially reinforced bicycles and hundreds of Russian Molotova trucks. Dozens of artillery pieces and thousands of shells were

The skies above the Dien Bien Phu landing strip fill with the smoke of battle



The length in days of the siege of Dien Bien Phu

Viet Minh troops rest in a trench between advances. Around 23,000 of them were killed or wounded at Dien Bien Phu

Viet Minh soldiers relied on a huge civilian force to bring them supplies

“Colonel Piroth elected to blow himself up with a hand grenade”

laboriously manhandled into position in the hills around Dien Bien Phu and dug into bunkers with trenches and shelters to protect their crews.

By March 1954, Giáp was ready to strike. The ensuing battle has been described as taking place in a stadium with the Viet Minh in the stands and the French on the field, their every move visible unless it was made at night or during the early-morning fog that sometimes shrouded the valley. On 13 March, Giáp stunned the French by unleashing a devastating bombardment on the Beatrice position on the northeast corner of the French perimeter. Beatrice was then attacked by an entire Vietnamese division and fell after several hours of heavy fighting.

Of the 550 Foreign Legionnaires, only a few dozen escaped. On 14 March, the Gabrielle position received the same treatment as Beatrice. By 23

March, both Annmarie and Huguette were in Viet Minh hands and the airstrip was virtually unusable.

The last flight into Dien Bien Phu took place on 28 March. From then on, all supplies had to be dropped in by parachute. Even so, the Viet Minh anti-aircraft fire was so effective that French supply planes were forced to fly at a much higher altitude than they wanted, causing thousands of parachutes to miss their targets and drift into enemy territory. Even the bottle of champagne dropped to mark de Castries' promotion to Brigadier-General ended up in Viet Minh hands.

ground and made French supply drops from the air even more difficult to carry out.

By May, the French were running out of food, ammunition and hope. The final Viet Minh assault was launched on 6 May and the last French soldiers surrendered the following day. Around 11,000 troops, many of them wounded, marched into captivity. Fewer than half would return home. 📍

NUMBERS GAME

These reverses came as a devastating blow for French morale, none more so than for Charles Piroth, who retreated into his bunker to blow himself up with a grenade. Christian de Castries himself seems to have lost confidence in his own ability to handle the battle and passed tactical control over to two hard-bitten French paras, Colonel Pierre Langlais and Major Marcel Bigeard. As time went on thousands of soldiers, mainly Indochinese troops who made up a third of the garrison, gave up fighting altogether and took shelter in the caves that adjoined the river running through the Dien Bien Phu position.

But the Viet Minh were suffering morale problems of their own. Every strongpoint captured, every yard gained, came at a horrific cost in human lives. So Giáp changed his tactics. The mass infantry attacks of March were replaced by a slow but steady approach. It was now classic siege warfare, with the Viet Minh soldiers inching their way in trenches towards the French positions. Meanwhile, the onset of the rainy season added to difficulties on the

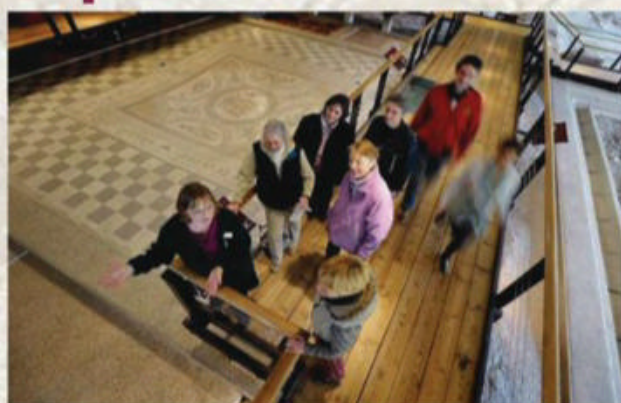
82,000

parachutes were used to supply the French troops in Dien Bien Phu

On the French surrender, 11,000 soldiers were taken into captivity

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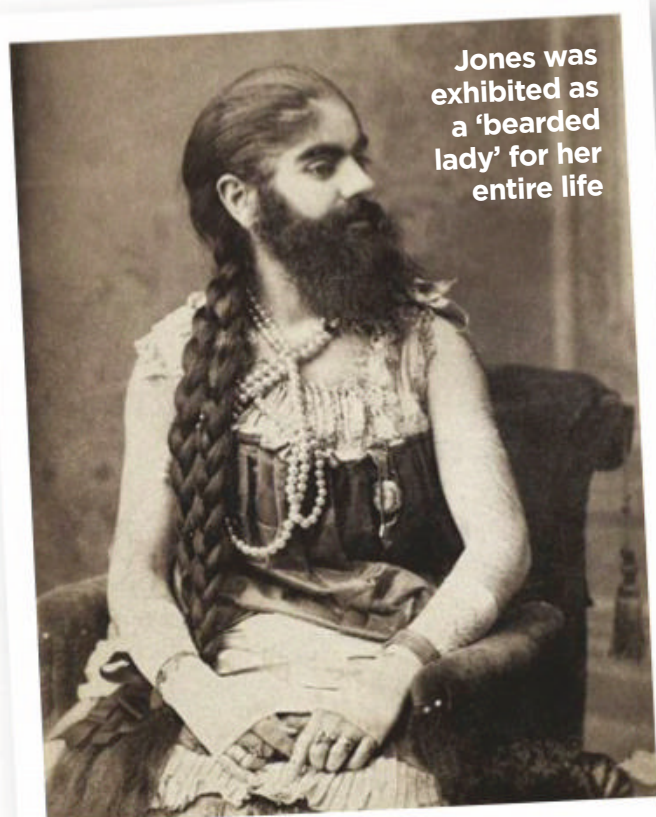
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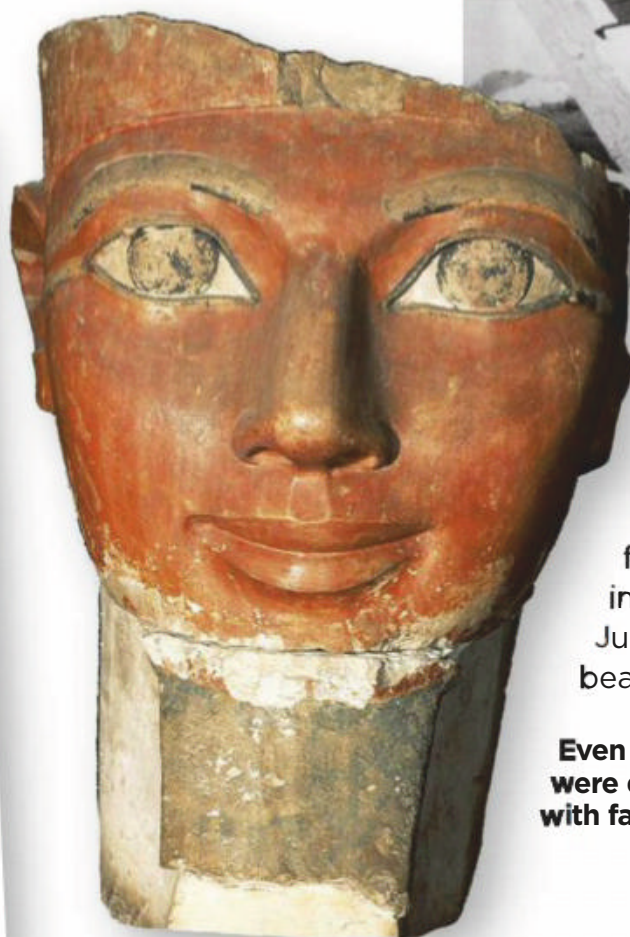


Brilliant beards

History's not short of its hairy moments, and they don't get hairier than this selection of face fuzz-toting folk



Jones was exhibited as a 'bearded lady' for her entire life



Even queens were depicted with false beards

OSIRIS

The Ancient Egyptians strangely preferred false beards to the real thing. Pharaohs, both male and female, would don metallic beards for ceremonies in order to emulate Osiris, God of the Underworld and Judge of the Dead, who was often depicted with a beard and a feathered crown called an *atef*. Burial masks often featured beards, too. In 2014, the beard on Tutankhamun's mask broke and conservators hastily reattached it with glue, scratching the mask.



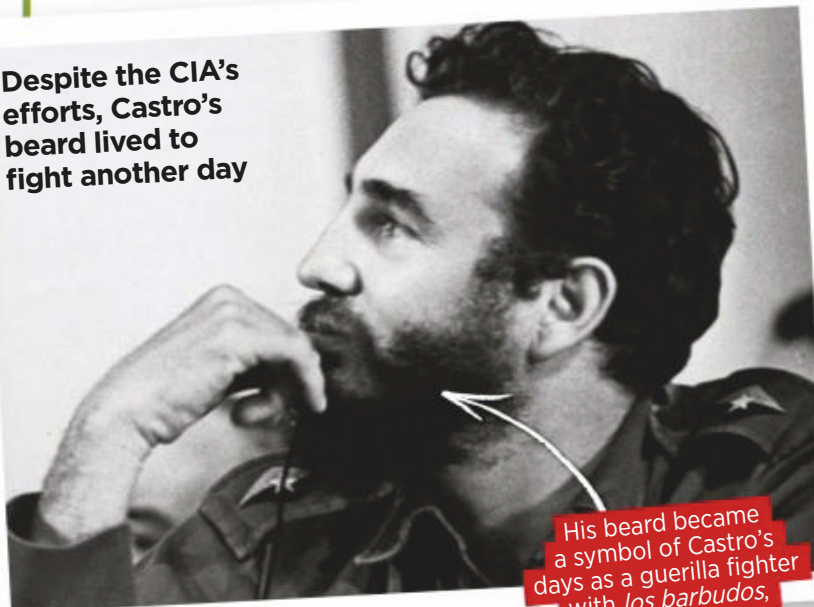
ANNIE JONES

PT Barnum's circus was full of curiosities, including bearded women. One of these was Annie Jones, who joined the show at just nine months old. Billed as 'The Infant Esau' – the biblical Esau being distinguished by his wealth of hair – Jones was able to grow a full beard, moustache and sideburns. This was probably due to hirsutism, a condition that causes excessive body hair to grow in areas where it is normally absent. As well as being one of the star attractions, Jones also became a spokesperson for the 'freaks' in Barnum's show and campaigned to rid the circus of the offensive term.

FIDEL CASTRO

Castro's beard was part of his public persona and he wore it as a symbol of his triumph during the Cuban Revolution. The CIA concocted numerous assassination attempts against him, including attacking his image. One plan was to dust his shoes with toxic thallium salts while he travelled overseas, making his beard fall out. It was hoped that Castro would be ridiculed without his iconic facial hair, but the trip was cancelled and the plan foiled.

Despite the CIA's efforts, Castro's beard lived to fight another day



His beard became a symbol of Castro's days as a guerilla fighter with *los barbudos*, the bearded ones



Shaving caused a diplomatic furore for young Henry

HENRY VIII

The Tudor king's beard – or lack of – nearly sent the country into war back in 1519. Henry and Francis I of France were attempting to arrange a meeting. Both kings promised not to shave until they met. But Henry's wife, Catherine of Aragon, wasn't a fan of her husband's rugged look and asked him to shave. Francis' mother took this as a slight against her son and some swift diplomatic flattery was required to restore the peace.



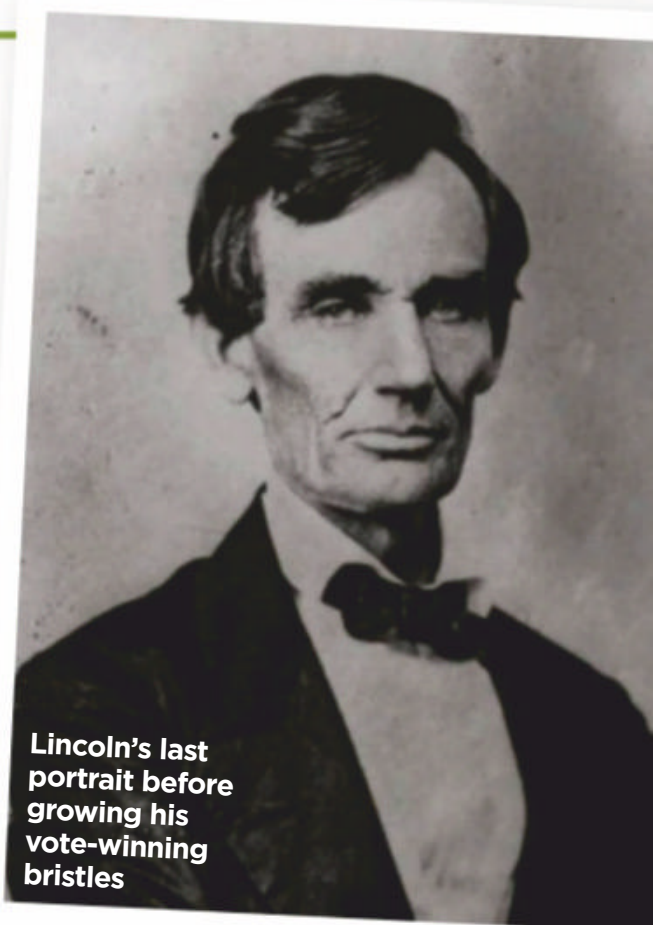
Langseth's world record beard has yet to be topped

HANS LANGSETH

When it comes to the winner in the longest beard stakes, the trophy has to go to Hans Langseth. A native of Norway, he emigrated to the US in 1867. He began growing his beard at 19 for a local competition and liked it so much that he carried on growing it. A farmer by profession, for a while he travelled the country in a 'freak show', showing off his long beard. At his death in 1927 it measured a whopping 5.33 metres and, in line with Langseth's wishes, his family had it chopped off his body. It now resides in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

US president Abraham Lincoln is easily recognisable with his full beard. During his early political career, however, he was clean shaven. That was until he received a letter from 11-year-old Grace Bedell, a month before the 1860 presidential election: "If you will let your whiskers grow, I will try and get the rest of them to vote for you. You would look a great deal better." Lincoln replied to his young admirer, expressing concern that a beard would look silly. But within the month, he had grown a beard and won the election.



Lincoln's last portrait before growing his vote-winning bristles



EDWARD MARIA WINGFIELD

As well as keeping your chin warm and for aesthetic appeal, sometimes beards can save your life. Edward Maria Wingfield was one of the financial backers of the Virginia Company of London. They established the English colony of Jamestown in Virginia, with Wingfield becoming the colony's first president. During a particularly brutal Native American attack in 1607, Wingfield was shot with an arrow – but only through his beard. The rest of him escaped unscathed.



More made sure his beard survived the axe

THOMAS MORE

Thomas More was once a trusted mentor to Henry VIII. A deeply religious man, he could not reconcile himself with Henry's break from the Catholic Church in order to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon. More resigned from his role as Lord Chancellor and refused to swear an oath recognising Henry as the head of the Church of England. Beheaded in 1535, on the chopping block he reportedly laid his long beard out of the way and asked the executioner to spare it with his blade, noting "this hath not offended the king."

HANS STEININGER

Beards are not normally feared as being dangerous, but for one man excessive facial hair would be the death of him. Hans Steininger was mayor of the town of Braunau (now in Austria) in the 16th century. He was renowned for his incredibly long beard – believed to measure nearly two metres – which he kept tucked in a pouch. In September 1567, tragedy struck when a fire broke out in the town. In the chaos, Steininger tripped over his beard and fell down some stairs, breaking his neck.

Facial hair proved fatal for the unfortunate town mayor



Blackbeard's smoldering whiskers were said to terrify enemies

BLACKBEARD

Legendary pirate Blackbeard was feared across the Caribbean Sea and the North American colonies. His nickname apparently came from his thick beard, where he would keep lit fuses to scare his enemies. Much of his life is still a mystery, but his legacy went on to inspire the quintessential idea of the pirate as the fearsome rogue of the seas.



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Did we miss your hirsute hero? Which beardsome big shot should be on the list?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

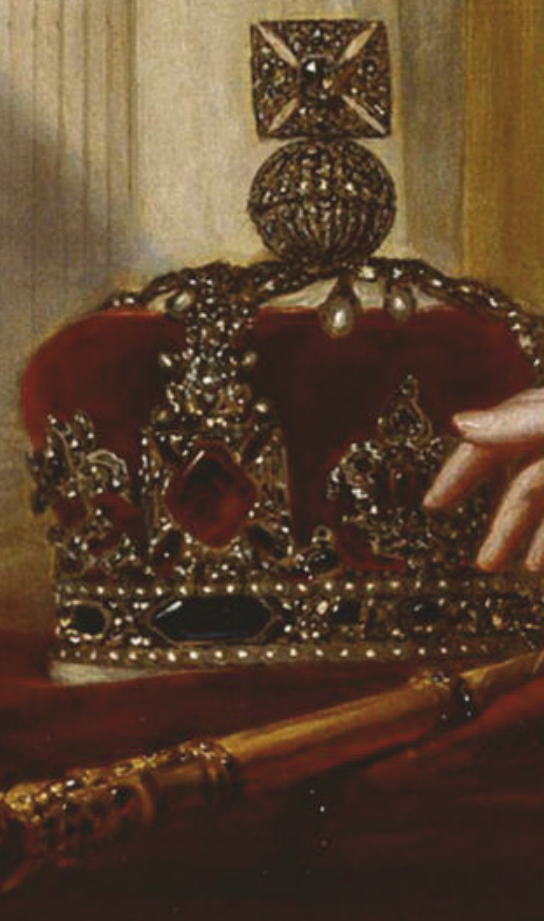
QUEEN VICTORIA

VICTORIA'S SECRETS

The public image is of a stuffy, buttoned-down monarch but, as historian **Lucy Worsley** tells **Emma Slattery Williams**, Queen Victoria's private journal and letters reveal the real woman behind the crown



LUCY WORSLEY is a familiar face on British TV screens having presented a host of history programmes. A prolific author, her new book is *Queen Victoria: Daughter, Wife, Mother, Widow*





Victoria's near-lifelong writings show, says historian Lucy Worsley, that there are aspects of the Queen that "should be drawn out and treated more sympathetically"



LEFT: The young Princess Alexandrina Victoria – aka the future Queen Victoria

THIS PIC: Kensington Palace, where Victoria was virtually confined for the length of her childhood



Victoria described her governess, Baroness Lehzen, as her “angelic, dearest Mother”

In the early hours of 20 June 1837, a young woman was woken by her mother in Kensington Palace. Arriving in her sitting room, she was greeted by two men kneeling at her feet – the Lord Chamberlain and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Just a few hours earlier, her uncle, King William IV, had passed away. This barely five-foot girl was now Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. Victoria received this news alone – one of the few times throughout her life thus far that she hadn’t been chaperoned. This tiny woman, forced to live a sheltered life until now, would go on to rule a quarter of the world’s population.

Unlike those of other British monarchs, many of Queen Victoria’s innermost thoughts are available for the world to read. They reveal a passionate and strong-willed woman who defied the image created of her. Victoria was first given a diary by her mother when she was 13 and added to it almost daily, right up until just days before her death. She was also a voracious letter-writer and these letters tend to be more open and honest; her journal was read by her mother until she was queen and so she avoided writing

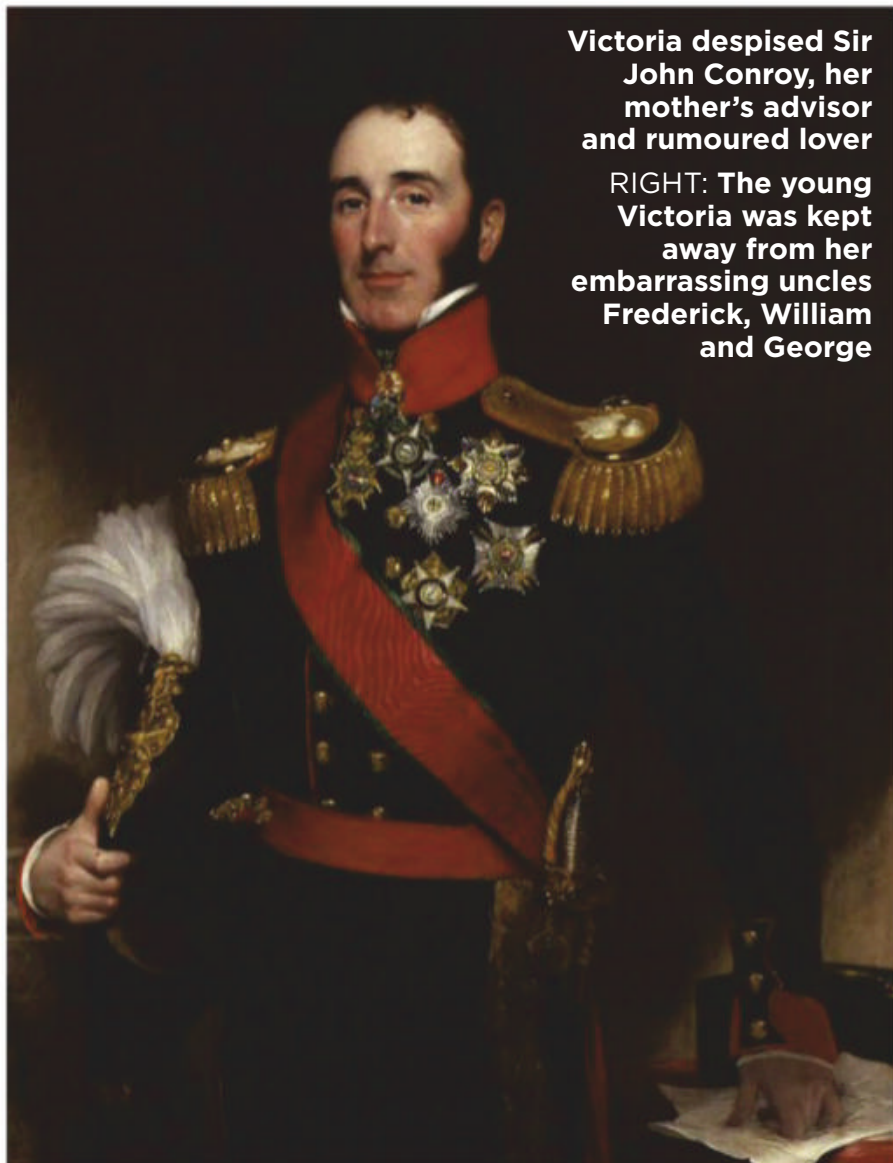


Victoria, whose father died when she was less than a year old, was increasingly distanced from her mother, the Duchess of Kent

anything that might offend her family. Indeed, Victoria later instructed her daughter Beatrice to remove anything too personal after her death. Beatrice destroyed most of the originals and the letters were censored, helping to cultivate the image that has survived down the centuries. Despite the censorship, her vast wealth of entries still gives us extraordinary insight into her thoughts and life.

LIMITED OPTIONS

Victoria wasn’t meant to be queen. Her grandfather, George III, had 15 children who, extraordinarily, produced just one legitimate heir between them. Princess Charlotte, the only child of George IV, tragically died in childbirth in 1817. This prompted Prince Edward, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, to quickly marry Princess Victoire of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld and the future Queen Victoria was born on 24 May 1819.



Victoria despised Sir John Conroy, her mother's advisor and rumoured lover
RIGHT: The young Victoria was kept away from her embarrassing uncles Frederick, William and George



relationship with her mother worsened, Lehzen became ever more important to the princess, who later described her as her “angelic, dearest Mother”.

Victoria was lonely and isolated, but there may have been method in the madness of her childhood. “I think there were three reasons for the Kensington System,” says Worsley. “Firstly, to keep her physically safe from assassination. Secondly, I think it had a PR value – it distanced Victoria in people’s minds from the unpopular regimes of her

uncles, so that when she became queen, it was like a fresh start to the monarchy. But the third reason I definitely think was about breaking her spirit – Conroy hoped that he could get control over her and that he could become the power behind the throne.

“Unfortunately for him, I think it also had the effect of toughening her up. During her difficult childhood, something steely was forged in her soul that would stand her in good stead later on.” Conroy tried to suggest that Victoria

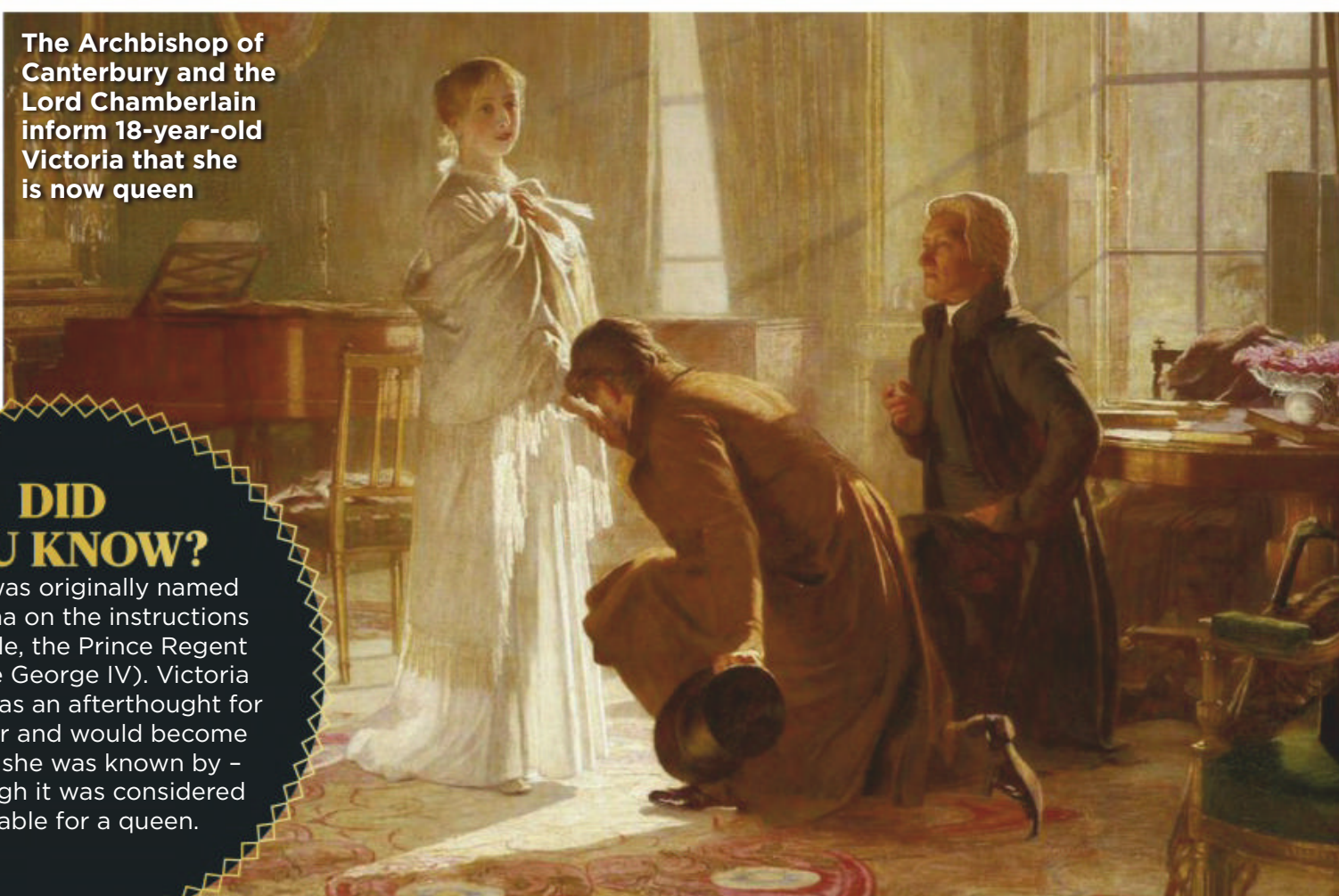
Victoria’s father died when she was less than a year old. Her mother and Sir John Conroy – the Duchess of Kent’s advisor – distanced her from her uncle’s courts as much as possible, using methods that later became known as the Kensington System. She was kept out of the public eye, watched all the time and was not allowed to play with other children. Dolls were her only friends. Her governess overindulged her, perhaps out of pity, which allowed her to develop a selfish streak, and she became used to getting her own way.

In her new book, *Queen Victoria: Daughter, Wife, Mother, Widow*, historian Lucy Worsley uses the journals to examine the life of Victoria through 24 key moments and asks us to reconsider the Queen through fresh eyes: “Looking at her from the point of a woman of the 21st century, there’s parts of her that I think should be drawn out and treated more sympathetically.”

As Victoria grew up, a gap began to widen between herself and her mother. Victoria despised Conroy and, whether Victoria knew of them or not, there were rumours that the Duchess and Conroy were lovers. In 1819, Baroness Lehzen had entered the Kents’ household as governess to Victoria’s half-sister Feodore. As Victoria’s

“Victoria was first given a diary when she was 13 and added to it almost daily, right up until days before her death”

The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Lord Chamberlain inform 18-year-old Victoria that she is now queen



DID YOU KNOW?

Victoria was originally named Alexandrina on the instructions of her uncle, the Prince Regent (the future George IV). Victoria was added as an afterthought for her mother and would become the name she was known by – even though it was considered unsuitable for a queen.

PRINCE ALBERT

The second son of Ernest III, Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfeld, Albert was Victoria's first cousin, through their mutual uncle Leopold I of Belgium. He would become the greatest love of her life.

As a younger son, he was not born to be as powerful as his brother, but he struggled with his inferiority to Victoria in their marriage. He once commented to a friend that he was not master in his house.

He tried to assume as much control over the royal household as possible. During Victoria's pregnancies, she reluctantly gave up more duties, allowing the Prince to be more involved in state affairs. He was an unusually hands-on father who enjoyed playing with the children and encouraged an intensive education.

Politically ambitious, Albert championed welfare reforms, the abolition of slavery and was one of the organisers of the Great Exhibition of 1851. His sudden death at 42 from typhoid fever would cast a long shadow over the later years of Victoria's reign. She was bereft of her companion and confidant, but also of his domineering presence.

Albert tried to exert control over the royal household while also pursuing clear political ambitions



“She wrote about her future husband in a way no-one would expect from a monarch”

wasn't fit to rule. If William IV died before she turned 18, then a regent would be required, and it was hoped this would be the Duchess – and, by default, Conroy.

Conroy's plan wouldn't come to fruition however, as Victoria turned 18 less than a month before William IV passed away. After learning of her ascension to the throne, two of her first acts were to have an hour alone and to move her mother out of the bedroom they had shared all her life. Although nervous and feeling out of her depth, she was aware of her duty: “Since it has pleased Providence to place me in this station, I shall do my utmost to fulfil my duty towards my country; I am very young and perhaps in many, though not in all things, inexperienced, but I am sure, that very few have more real good will and more real desire to do what is fit and right than I have.”

She came to the throne at a time when the monarchy was in a precarious position, with the past 50 years having seen revolutions across Europe destroy royal dynasties. Victoria's two uncles, George IV and William IV, had not been popular and the threat of revolution hung heavy in the air.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Victoria knew that her duty meant that she must marry, but she wasn't going to make the wrong choice; she was a romantic at heart. She had first met her cousin Albert in 1836, but he didn't make too much of an impression, so a tutor was hired to coach him. “I may like him as a friend, and as a cousin and as a brother, but no more,” she confided in a letter to her uncle, Leopold I of Belgium. She would soon change her mind, however, writing about him in a way no-

Victoria holds her First Council as queen. “I shall do my utmost to fulfil my duty towards my country,” she wrote



does look so beautiful in his shirt only, with his beautiful throat seen.” Many of her more passionate entries were deleted by Beatrice for offending Victorian sensibilities, such as this one from their honeymoon: “My dearest Albert put on my stockings for me. I went in and saw him shave; a great delight for me.” To Albert’s dismay, their honeymoon only lasted three days as Victoria was anxious not to shirk her duties.

“One of the things that really surprised me about engaging with Victoria more was some of the false selling of her love-match with Prince Albert,” explains Worsley. “A lot of people assume that’s one of history’s great love matches and



ABOVE: An informal depiction of Victoria and Albert relaxing with their children

THIS PIC: The loving couple photographed in 1859, two years before Albert’s premature passing at just 42

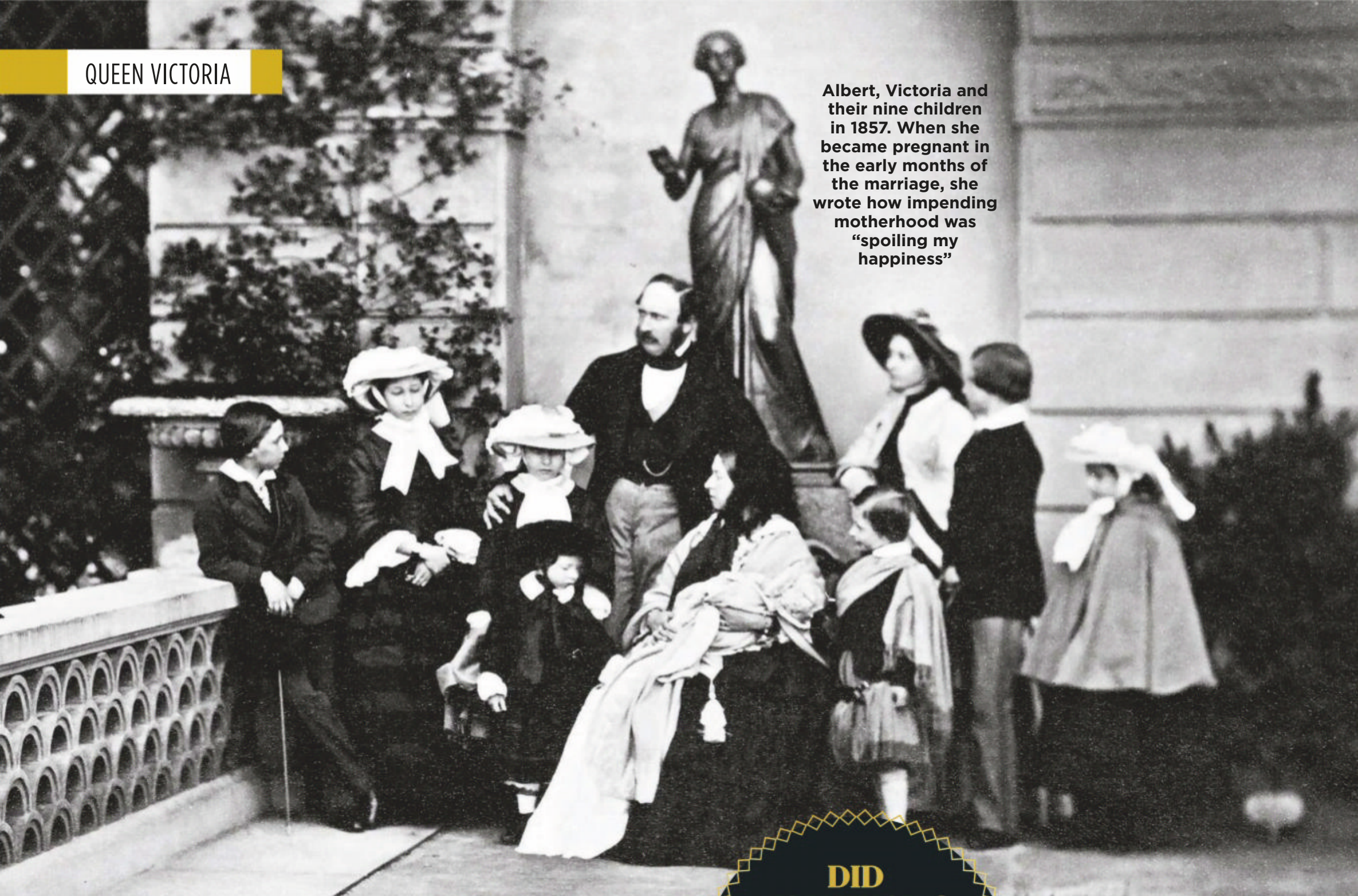
one would expect from a monarch, let alone a Victorian: “Albert really is quite charming, and so excessively handsome, such beautiful blue eyes ... my heart is quite going.”

As queen, she called the shots and, even though her family had made the assumption that Victoria would marry Albert, Worsley points out that she wasn’t in a rush: “She refused to marry him for three years after the arranged match had been set up. One thing I loved reading about in her journal was that when, finally, she did agree to marry him, she announced it first to her prime minister. She said to Lord Melbourne ‘I’ve decided to marry Albert; do you think I had better tell Albert of my decision?’ I love the idea of her telling Albert, ‘We’re going to get married’. He said ‘yes’ and didn’t have much more to say about it than that, although he did increasingly get more control over their relationship as time went on.”

They were married in 1840 and Victoria’s journal entry the day after their wedding shows no regrets. “When day dawned (for we did not sleep much) and I beheld that beautiful angelic face by my side, it was more than I can express! He



Albert, Victoria and their nine children in 1857. When she became pregnant in the early months of the marriage, she wrote how impending motherhood was “spoiling my happiness”



DID YOU KNOW?

In Osborne House, the couple's residence on the Isle of Wight, Albert reportedly created a mechanism that allowed them to lock the door without having to get out of bed.

“I was amused to discover that reality was sometimes quite different from that.” The relationship between Victoria and Albert was one of true affection, but behind closed doors it wasn't all romance and roses. Albert struggled with his lower position in the household, and Victoria felt the same way. Although she was Queen, her mother and the societal constraints of the time had taught her the importance of relying on a man.

“She definitely saw herself as inferior to him and that was the role that women in the 19th century were expected to adopt,” says Worsley. “She was taught to have what today we might call impostor syndrome and I feel that's unfair. Albert is obviously intelligent, cerebral and well organised, but I think what she had that he didn't have was emotional intelligence. That's what made her a much more instinctive and effective politician. She made people think that she cared about them in a way that he never could.”

When it came to affairs of the heart, Victoria was devoted to Albert and relished the time they spent alone together. However, she didn't hold the same view of its consequences. When she discovered that she was pregnant not long after the wedding, she couldn't hide

her dismay: “I am really upset about it and it is spoiling my happiness; I have always hated the idea and I prayed God night and day to be left free for at least six months, but my prayers have not been answered and I am really most unhappy. I cannot understand how one can wish for such a thing especially at the beginning of a marriage.” (After the birth of her last and ninth child, Victoria was advised not to have any more by her doctor, to which she gave the response: “Am I not to have any more fun in bed?”)

Although they obviously adored each other, the couple could have furious arguments. Some were probably caused by the need for Albert to take over

Victoria's duties while she was pregnant – she was not a fan of relinquishing power. She was known to have extreme mood swings and could be terribly stubborn. “Had she been in public life today people might talk of her as being ‘a bloody difficult woman’,” says Worsley. “There's an element of that in her that I sort of admire.”

MOTHERLY LOVE

Victoria has often been accused of disliking her children; at one stage, she likens babies to frogs. “It's easy to say that Victoria was a bad mother as there are these eye-catching statements that she made about her dislike of children,” says Worsley. “That is a bit unfair. She also spends a lot of time in her diaries and her correspondence saying how much she loves her children and how she spent time nurturing and looking after them. It's not entirely fair to flame her completely. She was probably like all mothers are – sometimes good and sometimes bad.”

Historians today suggest that Victoria may have suffered from post-natal depression, citing her struggle to bond with her children when they

“I think that what Victoria had that Albert didn't have was emotional intelligence”

Lucy Worsley

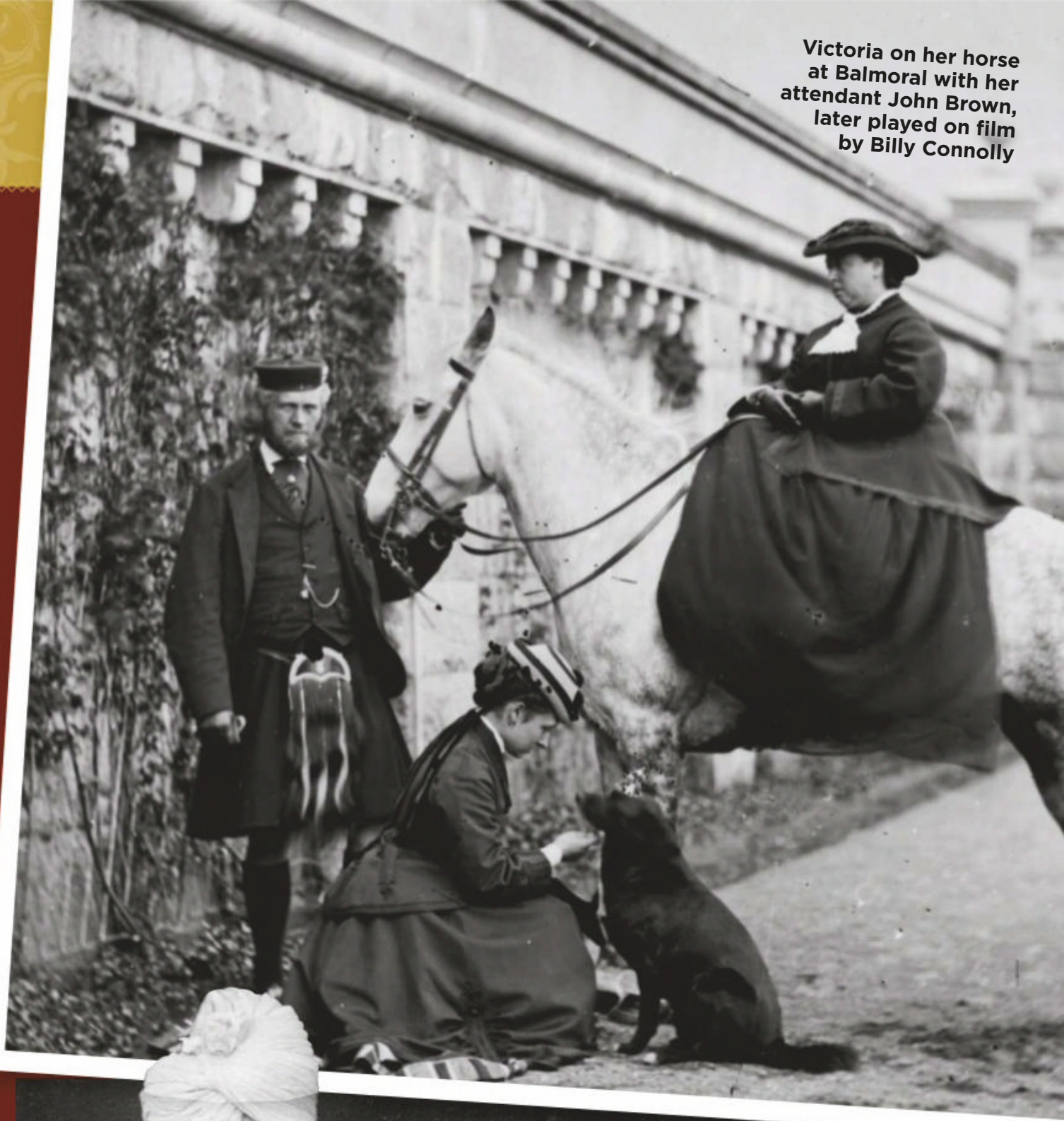
VICTORIA'S MEN

In the 19th century, a woman's place was in the home, with the husband as the head of the household. Victoria subverted this by being the figurehead of an entire empire, but she let Albert rule the royal household. Victoria never knew her father, who died before she was even a year old, and the only man who was a constant during her childhood was the hated John Conroy, advisor to her mother, the Duchess of Kent. The Duchess was a woman of low self-esteem who fitted the convention of a demure Victorian woman and taught her daughter that a woman always needed a man to guide her. This is a motif that can be traced throughout Victoria's life. She would always have a male figure next to her throughout her reign, although she would not let them control her.

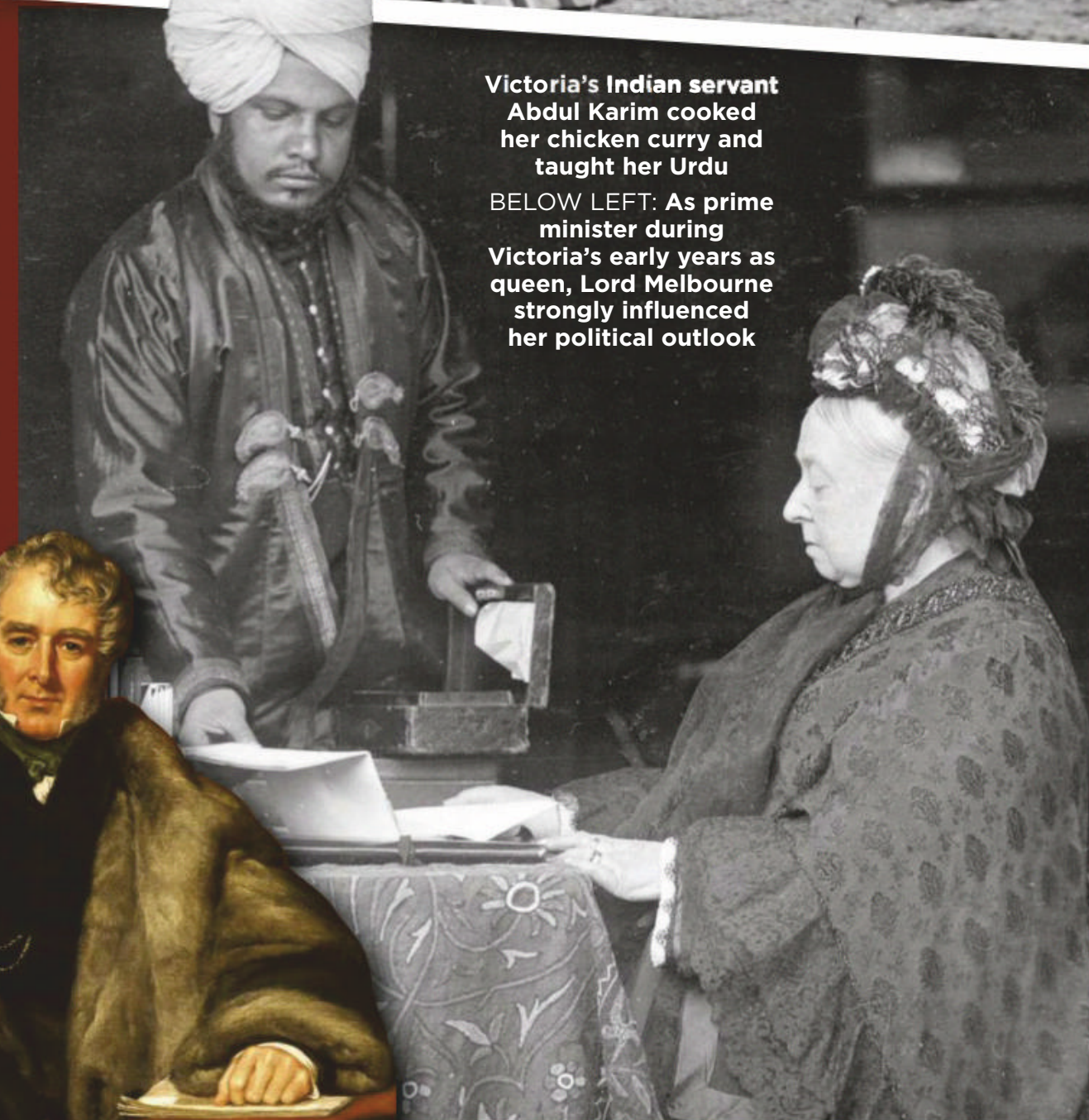
As a young girl thrust into a strange world, she found an advisor in the Prime Minister, Lord Melbourne. He taught her the rules of government and she regarded him almost like a father figure. This caused her to be criticised for not being above politics and for showing favouritism towards Melbourne's Whig party. Melbourne's influence gradually faded once Victoria married Albert. Her new husband became her soulmate in all matters. After his death, her prolonged mourning and withdrawal from public life reveals how much she relied on his presence.

John Brown was a servant who worked in the royal family's Scottish residence, Balmoral. Victoria became very close to him after Albert's death, causing scandalous rumours from government and her family. He was one of the few people who would speak honestly to the Queen and encouraged her to come out of her reclusive state – even if just for pony cart rides. Lucy Worsley suggests that he respected Victoria perhaps more so than Albert. She would later ask to be buried with a lock of Brown's hair.

In 1887, an Indian servant, Abdul Karim, became a particular favourite of the Queen, teaching her to read Urdu as well as making her curry. She promoted him to the prestigious role of Munshi, causing tension in the royal household. After Victoria's death, her son, Edward VII, ordered Karim's return to India and burned most of the correspondence between the two.

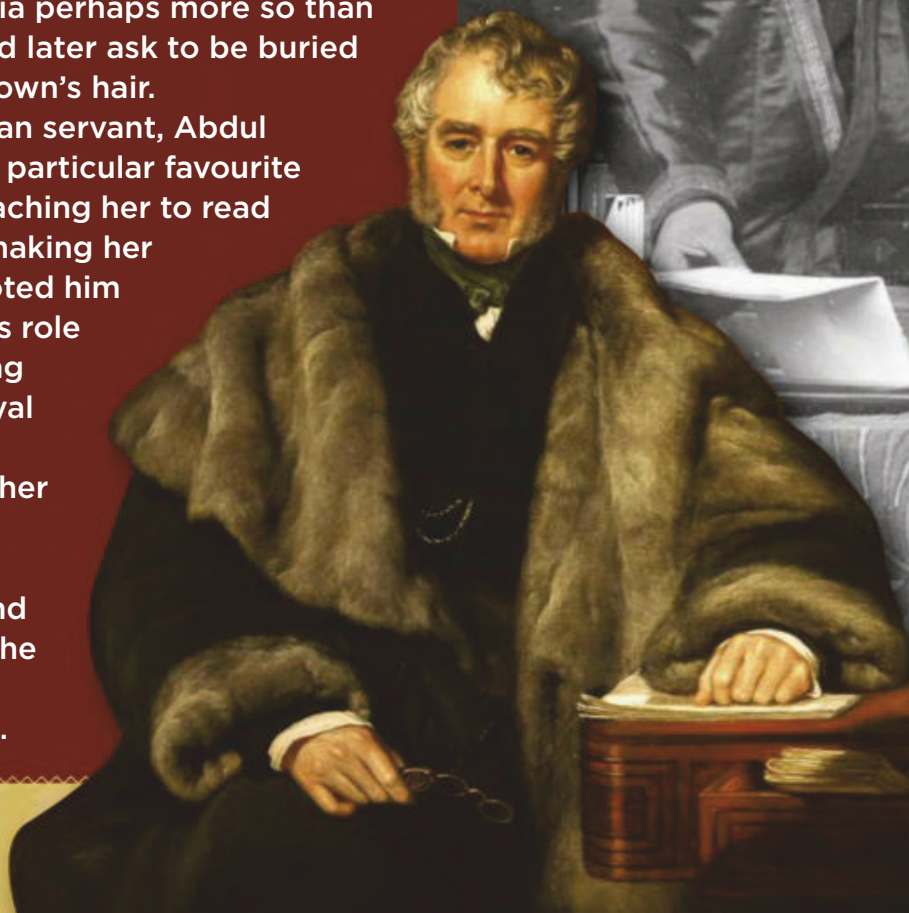


Victoria on her horse at Balmoral with her attendant John Brown, later played on film by Billy Connolly



Victoria's Indian servant Abdul Karim cooked her chicken curry and taught her Urdu

BELOW LEFT: As prime minister during Victoria's early years as queen, Lord Melbourne strongly influenced her political outlook



WHAT DID VICTORIA EVER DO FOR US?

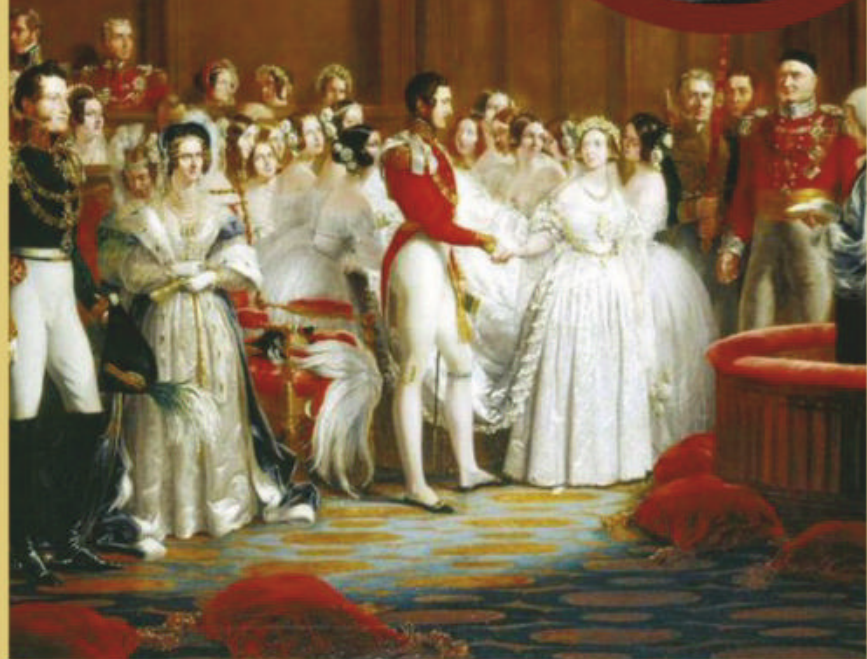
Many of the commodities and traditions we still have today in Britain can be traced back to Victoria's reign. During the birth of her eighth child, Leopold, Victoria was given chloroform to ease labour – against the advice of the Church and her physician who believed it was for common women. Anaesthetic use during childbirth now had royal approval and began being widely used.

Britain's love affair with curry goes back to the East India Company, whose men would bring back recipes for the exotic cuisine they had sampled on their travels. The first curry house opened in London in 1810, but many were cautious of this foreign food. A devotee was found in the Queen herself, who had developed an obsession with all things India since becoming Empress in 1876. Her Indian servant, Abdul Karim, impressed her with his chicken curry dish, and it wasn't long before curry was on the menu across the households of the aristocracy.

Although not the first royal to be married in white, Victoria would kickstart the trend for white wedding dresses. Before this, wedding dresses could be any colour – black was popular in Scandinavia and the material was chosen to reflect your social standing. Victoria chose a white dress made of Devonshire lace and Spitalfields silk to represent British industry. White became a popular colour across all levels of British society; the idea that the white dress symbolised virginity and purity would erroneously come about later.

RIGHT: Victoria's use of chloroform during childbirth popularised the anaesthetic

BELOW: The Queen also initiated the trend of brides wearing white dresses



were young. Perhaps due to her own childhood, she could be very cruel and spent a lot of time correcting their behaviour rather than enjoying her time with them. She also resented how pregnancy and motherhood could take her away from her role as monarch.

After the scandals of her forebears, though, Victoria wanted to create a family to be admired. Her reign ushered in a new age of the family and, at least on the surface, her and Albert's family looked like the Victorian ideal that would go on to inspire generations. She wanted to create the family she felt deprived of as a child.

BLACK THOUGHTS

Albert's death in 1861 from typhoid fever shook Victoria to the core. She withdrew from public appearances and wore black for the rest of her life – although her mourning dresses were always fashionable. It's clear that Victoria would have been happier had her husband lived longer, but Worsley suggests that it might not have been best for the monarchy.

"He really enjoyed getting involved in politics. He was seen as the interfering foreigner whereas Victoria, as a woman, fitted better the notion of what a monarch ought to be in the 19th century: someone who didn't interfere, somebody who advised, somebody who warned, but not somebody who took the lead. There is an argument that, had Albert lived for another 20 years and carried on interfering in the constitutional affairs of Great Britain, there would have been a revolution against him."

Despite proving that she could rule, there were still those who wanted to discredit Victoria's suitability as monarch. The fears of the 'madness' to which her grandfather had succumbed still haunted the court. "There were two times in her life when people became concerned that she was going mad like her grandfather. These two periods were during her childbearing years, when she suffered from what today might be diagnosed as post-natal

depression, and then after Albert died, they said she was going mad because that was when she was going through the menopause."

The image of Queen Victoria as a widow is one of a stern, overweight woman, but there may have been another reason for her apparent large size. She had always been described as a greedy person – this stemmed from her childhood where her diet was restricted – and she was constantly criticised for eating too fast.

It's possible that, during her grief, she turned to comfort eating, but she also had a ventral hernia – a condition often caused by pregnancy. The pain of this would have made wearing a corset impossible, thus possibly explaining why she did not have the slim figure women were expected to maintain.

In her spare time, Victoria loved reading novels and she was very creative, enjoying singing and painting. "You can see another life in which she would

DID YOU KNOW?

It's believed that Victoria wrote in excess of 60 million words over her lifetime in her journals and letters.



Victoria was a widow for just shy of 40 years, during which time she almost exclusively wore black mourning ensembles

Pictured in 1897 in deep contemplation, Victoria wears a bracelet featuring a portrait of her beloved Albert on her right wrist



have been an opera singer or worked in the theatre,” Worsley suggests. “I think she would have loved that. She was very attracted to showbusiness, which is a really good skill-set to have if it’s your job to be the monarch. She was very good at stage-managing the ritual, the ceremony of majesty.”

PRIMARY DUTY

Victoria was the ideal 19th-century woman, who knew her place in society should fall below that of a man. She did not relish her rule, but understood she had to fulfil her duty to her people and her family.

Worsley suggests being queen did not make her happy. “I think she thought she shouldn’t have been queen, that there should have been a man available to do the job, that she was there by default. She had a lonely life as a result of it, because intimacy was something she couldn’t really afford. The reason she had to stake everything on her relationship with Albert is that he was the nearest thing that she ever had to an equal. She certainly didn’t trust her friends or her

servants because they might betray her. She had a sad life in a lot of ways.”

She may not have championed or even supported equal voting rights for women, but Victoria proved women were just as capable as men. “Her strength was a sort of passive strength,” concludes Worsley, “but she sat on that throne for so long without falling off that, by the end of her reign, no-one could possibly question whether a female monarch was acceptable.”

Victoria’s 63-year-rule was far longer than any of her predecessors’ and has only recently been surpassed by Elizabeth II. After the failure of her predecessors to win over their subjects, the Queen had changed the face of the monarchy, putting family at the centre of Britain. 📍

GET HOOKED

VISIT

Opening on 24 May, Victoria 2019 is a major new exhibition at Kensington Palace commemorating the 200th anniversary of her birth. www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace/victoria-2019

WOULD VICTORIA HAVE PREVENTED WORLD WAR I?

Victoria was known as the Grandmother of Europe – she had 34 grandchildren survive into adulthood, and they would go on to rule the majority of Europe. The irony of World War I is that the three major players – George V of Britain, Tsar Nicholas II of Russia and Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany – were cousins.

The future German Emperor, Wilhelm II, was a frequent visitor to England as a child. Son of Victoria’s eldest child, Vicky, he was made a Knight of the Garter on his 18th birthday. As he grew older, he became more distant from his British relatives. Despite this, he rushed to be by his grandmother’s side when she was close to death. Lucy Worsley suggests this may have been to do with an expected legacy rather than being a doting grandson: “I think the reason he was assiduous at turning up was because he felt that he ought to inherit her role as the leader of Europe, whereas his uncle, the future Edward VII, obviously thought he was going to inherit it. The Kaiser kept turning up because he thought he was better than his uncle.”

But it’s unlikely Victoria could have done anything to prevent her family’s squabbles turning into worldwide chaos if she’d lived longer. Tensions across Europe had been bubbling away for many years.



As Victoria entered her last days, her son, the future Edward VII (*far right*) butted heads with his nephew, Wilhelm II (*second right*)

JOE MEEK

The UK's most successful independent record producer of the 1960s, Joe Meek was also a gay man whose troubles ran deep. **Jon Savage** examines the short life and long legacy of this pioneering outsider

On 22 December 1962, The Tornados' single *Telstar* rose to the top of the US charts, where it would stay for three weeks: that year's Christmas number one. It was only the fourth British record to achieve such heights and, like Vera Lynn's *Auf Wiederseh'n Sweetheart*, Laurie London's *He's Got The Whole World in His Hands* and Acker Bilk's *Stranger On The Shore*, it would prove a one-off. Like their compatriots, The Tornados would never break the Top 40 again.

For a short while, Joe Meek was on top of the world. At the age of 33, he was the top independent producer in the UK and had cracked the holy grail of transatlantic success. At the point *Telstar* reached the summit of the US charts, it was still in the UK Top Ten, after 17 weeks in the charts, including five at number one. Their follow-up, *Globetrotter*, was ready for release and would, along with another Meek production, Mike Berry's *Don't You Think It's Time*, quickly rise up the UK charts. By late January, Meek had three singles in the Top 20.

Telstar remains Joe Meek's best-known tune – an instrumental that seemed to exemplify the promise of the new technological age, taking its name from the recently launched Telstar communications satellite. Composed by Meek and arranged by The Tornados from a crude, home-sung demo, *Telstar* saw

Meek's fascination with technology and sound manipulation find its perfect expression. It was a compelling, compressed fusion of excitement, longing and innocence – but with a haunting and otherworldly undertow that reflected the tortured psyche of its creator.

SOLITARY CHILD

Joe Meek was always different. Born in April 1929 in Newent, Gloucestershire, he was sensitive, almost clairvoyant, but highly volatile. His native temper was exacerbated by his



1 Market Square, Newent: the Gloucestershire birthplace of the future hitmaker



Publicly, Joe Meek appeared to be the well-organised proprietor of a veritable hit factory. Internally, he was wracked by paranoia about both his profession and his sexuality

“TO SURVIVE AS AN INDEPENDENT, I’VE GOT TO PRODUCE RECORDS THAT ARE DIFFERENT”

Joe Meek

Meek with The Tornados, whom he would take to the top of the US charts



ABOVE: *Telstar* was one of Margaret Thatcher’s favourite records

ABOVE RIGHT: Meek recording artist, and serial parliamentary candidate, Screaming Lord Sutch



father, who suffered violent fits after experiencing shell shock in World War I. Dressed as a girl by his mother until the age of four (a scenario imagined by The Who’s 1966 hit, *I’m A Boy*), Joe was called a sissy and left alone by most of his peers. His homosexuality, coupled with his hair-trigger temper, led to the start of the persecution complex that lasted for the rest of his life.

Meek left the West Country for London at the age of 25 and developed a reputation as a brilliant sound engineer. Early successes included Humphrey Lyttleton’s *Bad Penny Blues* (the seed bed for The Beatles’ *Lady Madonna*) and the Christmas 1959 UK number one *What Do You Want To Want To Make Those Eyes At Me For?* by Emile Ford and the Checkmates. Nevertheless, he remained haunted by the fact that his sexual orientation was illegal. This laid him open, as it did generations of gay men, to ridicule, arrest, imprisonment, violent attacks and blackmail.

Unwilling and unable to work for anyone else – he was one of nature’s freelancers – Meek became an independent producer, a pioneer in the locked-down world of the British music industry. He was completely self-contained, working not in a conventional studio but in a converted upstairs maisonette above a leather-goods store at 304 Holloway Road in North London. Here he constructed and patched together an extraordinary laboratory, rooms of sound to which only he had the key.

Meek was obsessed with science fiction and the occult. He was otherworldly: his famous 1960 concept album, *I Hear Another World*, projected pop into outer space with sounds that had never been heard before, and all created by the labyrinth of wires in his home studio. Meek’s forte was sound effects – creaking coffin lids, machine hums, boot stomps – and the fierce compression of every instrument into a trebly concussion that cut through the primitive playback technology of the time. It was highly effective, but gimmicky.

“To survive as an independent,” he told *Disc* magazine in September 1961, “I’ve got to produce records that are different.” Meek placed his RGM Sound productions with all the major record companies, including Decca, Pye and EMI. He arrived as the period’s foremost independent with John Leyton’s summer 1961

chart-topper, *Johnny Remember Me*, an eldritch spasm that embodied the heightened teenage emotional state. Addressed to and sung by a man, the song also acted as a metaphor for the sense of loss and disassociation felt by Meek and many others.

Leyton’s follow-up, *Wild Wind*, was even more hysterical, with its boosted middle eight of wild vocals and wind sounds. It was part of a Gothic strain that permeated the Meek productions of this period. Around the same time, Meek fashioned the chilling *Jack The Ripper* and *Til the Following Night* for the infamous Screaming Lord Sutch. Meek’s tour de force, *The Moontrekkers’ Night of A Vampire*, was banned by the BBC because it “was unsuitable for people of a nervous disposition”.

By the turn of 1963, *Telstar* had made Meek big news in the British music industry. “Probably



Meek in his ramshackle studio on London's Holloway Road. "You'd be literally knee-deep in bits of tape," said musician Chas Hodges

BELOW: Meek's fascination with sound began when fiddling with radios as a kid



the best known independent producer in this country is Joe Meek," June Harris wrote in *Disc* in December 1962. "Joe produces discs with atmosphere and vitality. His sound is said to be more American than the Americans."

Meek had given his rules for success in the same publication the previous October: "topical ideas, a good tune and a sound that isn't borrowed from someone else are essentials". These words would come back to haunt him.

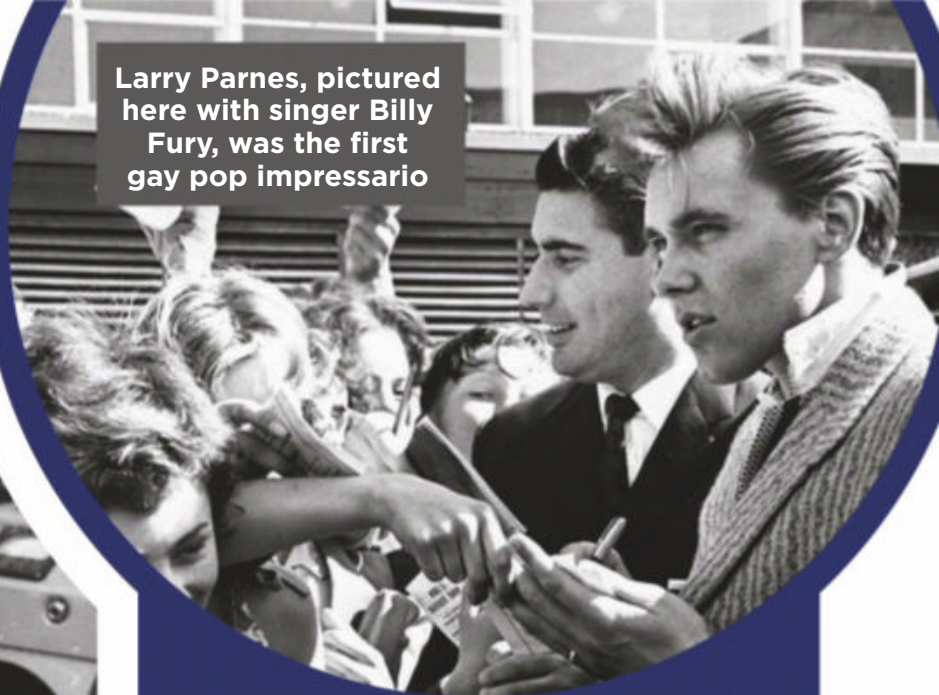
UNDER PRESSURE

However, success did not improve Meek's life. If anything, it compounded the pressures. Despite his freedoms, he had all the worries of a self-employed person in a volatile industry: without a regular outlet, each record had to be

placed individually and each had to stand on its own merits. He was only as good as his last hit and, after the advent of The Beatles in 1963, they were slower in coming: the organic group sounds of the Beat Boom made his compressed and gimcrack productions sound passe.

Although it began with such promise, 1963 was an unsatisfying year for Meek: formulaic follow-ups by Mike Berry and The Tornados tapered off, and his biggest hit, Heinz's *Just Like Eddie*, harked back to the rock'n'roll era (Eddie

Larry Parnes, pictured here with singer Billy Fury, was the first gay pop impresario



THE VELVET MAFIA

There has long been talk of the gay involvement in British showbusiness and pop music – sometimes called the Gay Mafia or the Velvet Mafia – but these terms suggest a conspiracy that never existed. The simple fact was that the music industry offered gay men and women a reasonably safe haven at a time when male homosexuality was illegal and lesbianism highly disapproved of. The roots of this go way back into the history of the entertainment industry and are well explored in 1960s memoirs by band managers Simon Napier-Bell (*You Don't Have To Say You Love Me*) and Andrew Loog Oldham (*Stoned*).

The figure of the gay manager/svengali goes right back to the roots of British rock'n'roll in the figure of Larry

Parnes, the successful entrepreneur who decided to set up his own stable of pop stars. This included Billy Fury, Vince Eager, Johnny Gentle and, nearly, The Beatles, whose eventual manager, Brian Epstein was gay (although this was not disclosed during his lifetime). Epstein brilliantly packaged The Beatles like a boy band. Giving them his undivided attention, he grounded the group and smoothed their path to mass success.

Because of their shared experience of being gay men at a time when it was illegal, it was inevitable that Joe Meek, Brian Epstein and EMI head Joseph Lockwood would meet up; there is strong evidence to suggest some kind of mutual support system. It could also be argued that the gay sensibility permeated sixties pop as a whole – in its softer fashions, long haircuts and generally less Victorian attitude to sex and gender.

Certainly the period would not have been the same without this powerful, yet still covert influence.



Another innovator, the gay playwright Joe Orton, died the same year as Meek



The Honeycombs parade their gold disc for *Have I The Right?*, the last Meek-produced chart-topping single

“MEEK BECAME PARANOID THAT HIS STUDIO HAD BEEN BUGGED AND THAT PEOPLE WERE STEALING HIS IDEAS”

being Eddie Cochran), just at the moment that British music was surging forward at great speed. And, as ever in the music industry, success brought litigation: in this case, by a French music publisher who held that *Telstar* had a similar melody to one of his copyrights.

While the matter was decided, all Meek's royalties from his biggest hit were frozen. He was in limbo. His mood darkened. Chas Hodges, later of Chas & Dave, was the bassist in Meek's house band, The Outlaws, and offered this observation: “You never knew how to handle Joe. You was always a bit on edge.” Meek terrified the usually fearless Rolling Stones manager Andrew Loog Oldham when they met: “he looked like a real mean-queen Teddy Boy and his eyes were riveting”.

In November 1963, Meek was arrested for importuning in a public toilet just off the Holloway Road. His friends were amazed: Meek could have had all the young men he wanted, as they were queuing up to be recorded by him and he was not averse to using this power for sexual purposes. But he was a habitual cruiser who, like the playwright Joe Orton (who worked the same North London beat), regularly went looking for sex in public parks and public toilets. He was addicted to the frisson of excitement.

The times were not propitious for much more than a quick encounter. In the supposedly Swinging Sixties, male homosexuality was still illegal in the UK, leaving any man who acted on his sexual and emotional orientation liable to conviction, exposure and blackmail. This was not conducive to good mental health and, in Meek's case, the problem was exacerbated by his prominence. His case made the front page of the *London Evening News*, leaving him open to the attentions of several would-be-blackmailers.

Meek had always been prone to paranoia, and this now had something real to feed off. Popping amphetamine pills, he became obsessed with the possibility that he was being bugged, that people were stealing his ideas by electronic listening devices. His interest in other worlds deepened: graveyards, spiritualism and the occult. Charles Blackwell, the arranger of *Johnny Remember Me*, remembered Joe as “a split personality. He believed he was possessed, but had another side that was very polite with a good sense of humour.”

The negativity that he experienced clung to him like worn-out, not-yet-shed skin. Even so, Meek pulled off a huge coup with the success of The Honeycombs' *Have I The Right?* – a UK number one in August 1964 at the time of The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Animals and The Kinks – and an oblique comment on his own blocked right to sexual and emotional fulfilment. This was his last chart-topper, but he continued to adapt. He was too restless and forward-thinking to get totally trapped in the past.

In early 1965 he relaunched RGM Sound as Meeksville Sound. His output barely abated:

David John and the Mood's *Bring It To Jerome* showed him at home with the new R&B medium, which he then transcended with The Syndicats' frenzied *Crawdaddy Simone*. In March 1966, he scored his last ever hit with the Liverpool group The Cryin' Shames' *Please Stay*, which featured a completely overwrought vocal extracted by Meek under extreme duress: he had bullied the singer to the point of tears.

OVERT MESSAGE

Although he found it difficult to place many of his productions during 1966, Meek remained a player among the British music industry's 'gay mafia', which acted as an informal support network. Not only would he accompany Brian Epstein, the gay manager of The Beatles, to witness Bob Dylan's June 1966 Royal Albert Hall concert, but when the continued freezing of the *Telstar* royalties threatened to bankrupt him later in the year, Meek was thrown a lifeline by the EMI chairman, Sir Joseph Lockwood, who offered him a job as an in-house producer.

In August 1966, Meek produced the first overt gay statement to be released on a major label



On the steps of Brian Epstein's London home, readers learn of the death of The Beatles' manager

in the UK, The Tornados' *Do You Come Here Often?* – a dialogue set in a gay bar. However, this brief triumph barely assuaged his downward spiral of drugs and paranoia.

In January 1967, Meek became caught up in the investigation of a gruesome crime dubbed the Suitcase Murder that made the news when the chopped-up body of 16-year-old Londoner Bernard Oliver was found in two suitcases in the Suffolk countryside.

It was a shocking crime with homosexual overtones – the victim had been sexually assaulted – and detectives said they intended to “interview every gay man in London”, which included the high-profile Meek. Although the hapless producer had nothing to do with the killing, the police interest tipped him over the edge. On February 2, he burst into a friend's house all dressed in black, claiming he was possessed. The next morning, on the 18th anniversary of Buddy Holly's death, Meek blasted his landlady with his shotgun before turning it on himself.

Joe Meek died in the same year as two other significant gay sixties cultural figures: Joe Orton and Brian Epstein. Their deaths occurred just at the point when the freedoms of the 1960s were institutionally recognised in Britain. The Sexual Offences Act, which became law right at the end of July 1967, substantially decriminalised homosexuality. Allowing for the existence of gay social and sexual relationships, it removed the threat of blackmail and enabled the first very basic steps to be taken towards the ultimate goal of total parity with heterosexual society.

TOP:
Police guard the property after the bodies of Meek and his landlady were found upstairs

ABOVE: **Meek was said to have been nervous about being questioned over the notorious Suitcase Murder**

But the past couldn't be wiped away. Quite apart from their individual childhood experiences, all three of these major cultural innovators – Meek, Orton and Epstein – were indelibly scarred by what they had gone through in adolescence and early adulthood. In the 1950s and early '60s, being homosexual was, in terms

of social attitudes, like being a paedophile is today. There was no negotiation: you were the lowest of the low. The effect was shattering.

At that very point of liberalisation, Meek, Orton and Epstein succumbed to the damage of all those years in the shadow. “Hey, you've got to hide your love away,” John Lennon had sung in one of The Beatles' most poignant songs, and for almost every adult gay man born before the mid-1940s, the strain of having to do so was psychologically disastrous. In far too many cases, the result was alcoholism, drug addiction, compulsive cruising, crippling guilt and an inability to form lasting emotional relationships. It was a monstrous waste of lives. 📍



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Was Joe Meek a one-off or is the greatest art often produced by those wracked by inner turmoil?

Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN?

The A side of The Tornados' final single *Is That a Ship I Hear?* was a shameless attempt to appeal to the pirate radio stations of the day, but the flip-side was something quite different. *Do You Come Here Often?* begins as a flouncy organ-drenched instrumental, but after two and a half minutes, there is a new element: two sibilant, obviously homosexual voices bitching in an atmosphere designed to sound like a gay club. The exchange is brief but has a tart authenticity: “Well I must be off.”

“Yes, you're not looking so good.”
“Cheerio. I'll see you down the 'Dilly'.”
“Not if I see you first, you won't.”

In the account of the heterosexual members of the group who voiced Meek's lines, everyone concerned had a lot of fun during the recording, and Meek regarded the track as a triumph. *Do You Come Here Often?* was an extraordinary achievement: the first record on a UK major label to deliver a slice of queer life so true that you can hear its cut and thrust in any gay bar today.

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A-Z OF EXECUTIONS

For centuries, capital punishment was part of everyday life, as shown by this alphabetical guide to a very British way of death

Words: Gavin Mortimer

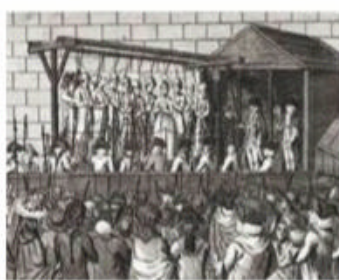
A ... is for **ASPHYXIATION**



Hanging was the preferred method of execution in England from early Anglo-Saxon times, but it was neither efficient nor painless. Deaths

were drawn out, with the condemned hanging until they suffocated. Over time, the method evolved, and in 1783 'new drop' gallows were first used at London's Newgate Prison, whereby the condemned – often many at a time – fell through a trapdoor. Around a century later came the 'long drop', where the prisoner's height and weight were used to determine the length and rate of drop, to ensure a swift death from a broken neck rather than asphyxiation.

C ... is for **CODE**



By the 19th century, some 222 crimes were defined as capital offences, including murder, robbery and impersonating a Chelsea pensioner.

Even maiming a cow or being out at night with a blackened face was punishable by death, with the age, sex and mental health of the offender being deemed an irrelevance. So harsh was the penal code that it became known as the 'Bloody Code', and it wasn't until 1861 that Parliament passed a bill de-capitalising minor crimes. After then, only four offences carried the death penalty: murder, arson in a royal dockyard, high treason and piracy with violence.

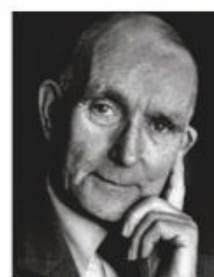
D ... is for **DORCHESTER**



The English town takes an unexpectedly prominent part in the history of executions. It was there that Elizabeth Martha Brown became the last woman publicly executed in Dorset when she met her end in

1856. Her husband John had struck out at her and she retaliated by burying an axe in his head. Brown was hanged on 9 August in front of a few thousand onlookers. In the crowd was the 16-year-old Thomas Hardy, who drew on the experience when writing his classic novel, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. He later recalled: "I saw they had put a cloth over the face [and] how, as the cloth got wet, her features came through it. That was extraordinary." Brown's remains are believed to be among those of 50 executed prisoners found under the former Dorchester Prison, and which may be reinterred in Poundbury Cemetery.

E ... is for **EXECUTIONER**



The pioneer of the 'long drop' in the 1870s was William Marwood, an executioner who was far more humane than his predecessor. The notorious William Calcraft had executed more than 450 people over the

course of 45 years in the job and was reputed to enjoy seeing them suffer, sometimes prolonging their death throes to excite the crowd. The most prolific British executioner of the 20th century was Albert Pierrepoint (*pictured*), whose father and uncle were also hangmen. As many as 600 were despatched by him, including hundreds convicted of war crimes. He considered his work as "sacred" and the "supreme mercy".

F ... is for **FINAL WORDS**

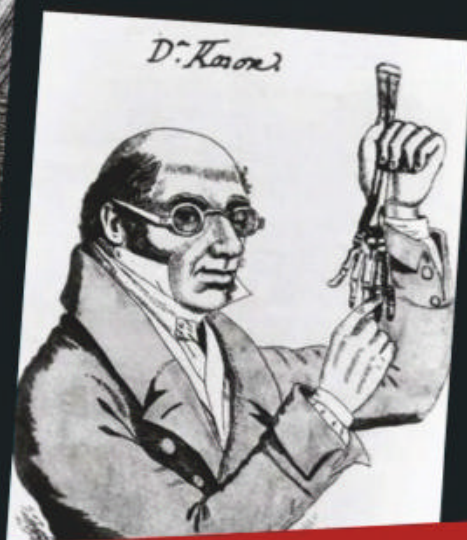
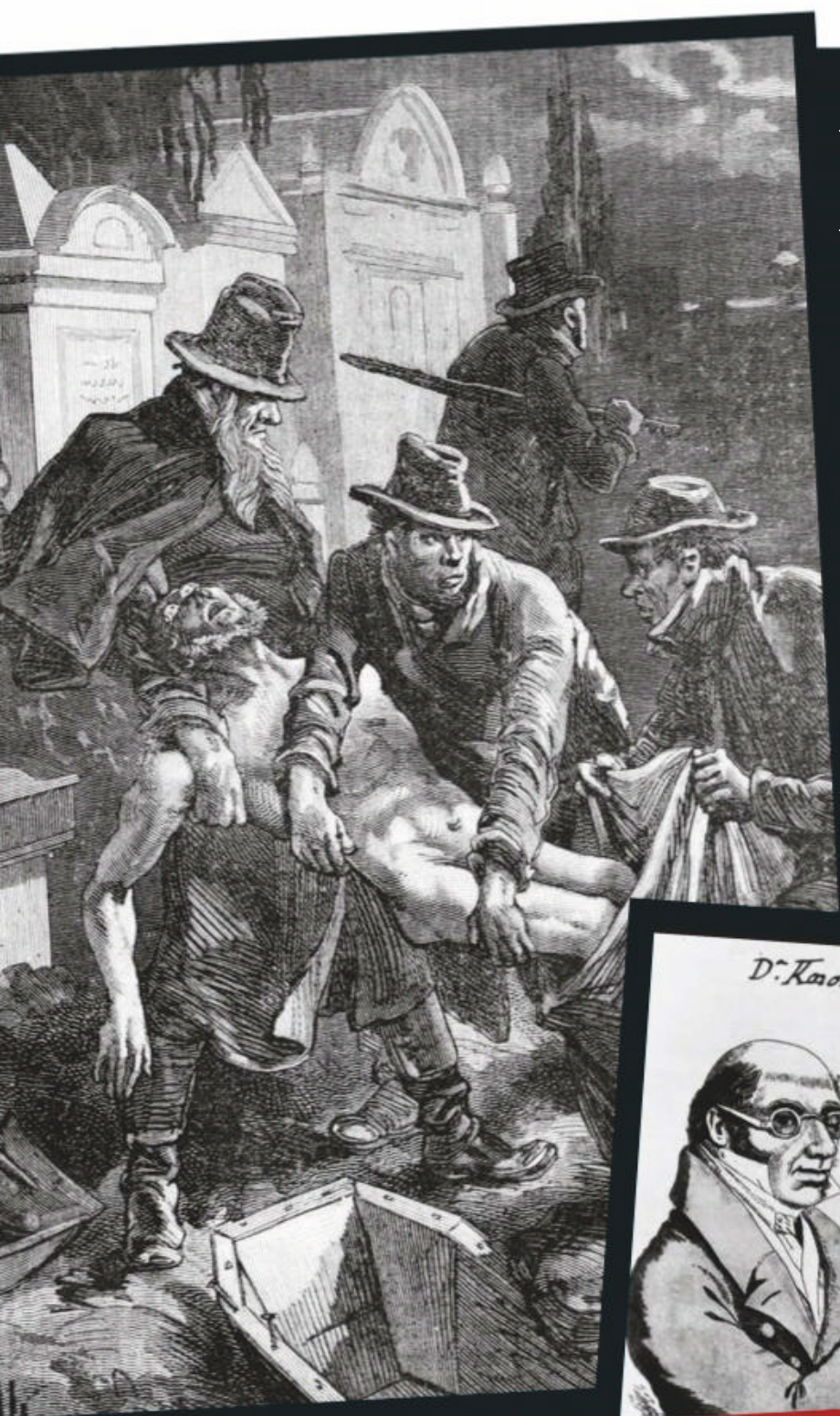


Facing imminent death affected the condemned in different ways. Some confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness; others maintained their innocence. James MacLaine, the 'gentleman highwayman',

murmured only "Oh, Jesus" as he stood on the gallows in 1750. Others may have been eager for the end to be as swift as possible, such as the famous Elizabethan explorer Sir Walter Raleigh, who urged the executioner wielding the axe to "Strike, man, strike!". As for the highwayman Isaac Atkinson, hanged in 1640, he addressed the crowd: "Gentlemen, there's nothing like a merry life, and a short one."

B ... is for **BODY SNATCHERS**

A lucrative profession for criminals in 17th- and 18th-century Britain was body snatching. Freshly interred corpses would be dug up from cemeteries and sold, in most cases, to medical schools for anatomical study. Oddly, the snatching itself was not illegal, but dissecting a body was. That changed with the Anatomy Act of 1832, prompted by the trial of William Burke and his execution in 1829. He and his partner, William Hare, progressed from removing corpses to committing murder in their attempt to ensure a supply to sell to Edinburgh physician Robert Knox. Burke was hanged in front of 25,000 people. His corpse, fittingly, was dissected.



Body snatchers were also called 'resurrectionists'; Knox's popularity rose after his link to Burke and Hare was revealed

"BURKE AND HARE WENT FROM REMOVING CORPSES TO COMMITTING MURDER"

G ... is for **GIBBETING**

While a gibbet can refer to the actual scaffold used for an execution, gibbeting was the grisly act of publicly displaying the dead in human-shaped cages to serve as a warning. Even more gruesomely, prisoners could be encased alive in an iron gibbet and suspended from a beam to die of starvation and/or exposure. Gibbeting, also known as ‘hanging in chains’, was around since medieval times, but reached a peak in the mid-18th century. It was a fate that befell the pirate Captain William Kidd, whose body was displayed over the Thames at Tilbury Point in 1701 to make sailors think twice about turning to piracy.

Captain Kidd had to be hanged twice before being gibbeted after the rope snapped



third time, and still the trapdoor jammed – although it worked perfectly when Lee wasn’t standing on it. Having been returned to his cell, Lee’s fate gained so much publicity that his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment. He was released in 1907 and was thought to have emigrated to the US, where he died in 1945.

L ... is for **LADIES**



Although it is true to say that significantly more men have been executed than women, there have been some notable examples. Alice Arden was burned in 1551 for organising the death of her husband, while Mary Carleton’s 1673 crime was befriending and robbing wealthy gentlemen. In 1809, Margaret Barrington was hanged for fabricating a certificate in the hope of receiving a soldier’s pay. The last woman executed in Britain was Ruth Ellis (*pictured*). Condemned for shooting her abusive lover, the 28-year-old hostess was hanged in 1955. The widespread call for her reprieve, followed by revulsion, led to a growing argument to abolish the death penalty in the UK, which was finally achieved in 1969.

M ... is for **MARTYRS**



In 1563, the preacher John Foxe published his *Book of Martyrs*, detailing the hundreds of Protestants burned at the stake for their beliefs. Arguably the most famous was Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury and leader of the Reformation, who was martyred in 1556 in Oxford. He was one of an estimated 300 heretics burned on Mary I’s orders. Her successor, Elizabeth I, had numerous Catholics executed for transgressing anti-Roman Catholic decrees and for plotting against her.

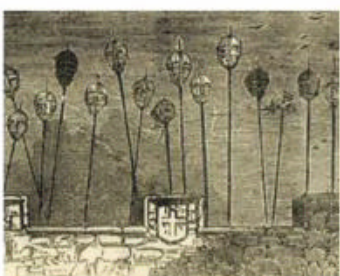
H ... is for **HEART-THROB**



A native of Normandy, Claude Du Vall arrived in England in 1660 to enjoy the fun of the Restoration period. He became a highwayman to fund

his high living, robbing without compunction, but always with a flash of a charming smile for his female victims. His “conquests among the ladies” were legendary and he became something of a celebrity. When he was caught and imprisoned, Du Vall continued to entertain admirers in his cell before his execution in front of a large crowd in 1670. “Men he made stand, and women he made fall” ran the inscription on his gravestone in Covent Garden, London. “The second Conqueror of the Norman race.”

I ... is for **IMPALEMENT**



Beginning with William Wallace in 1305, the heads of executed traitors would be impaled on iron spikes above the main gateways of

London Bridge. In 1661, a German visitor to the capital counted 20 heads on display, although that was an exceptionally high number and a result of the fallout from the British Civil Wars.

In the 18th century, the impaled heads were put on display at Temple Bar, close to the London Embankment. A brisk trade emerged in renting “spy-glasses at a halfpenny a look” so sightseers could study the heads in greater detail.

J ... is for **JOHN LEE**

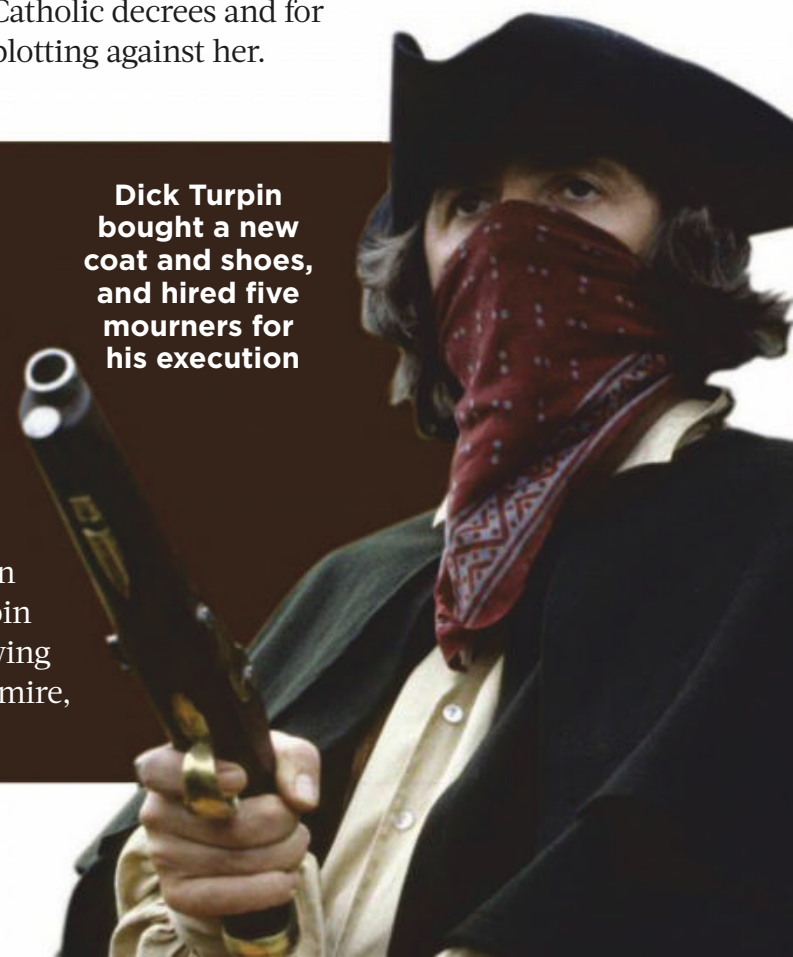


John ‘Babbacombe’ Lee became known as the ‘man they couldn’t hang’. Convicted of murder in Devon, the 20-year-old was sentenced to death despite a lack of hard evidence pointing to his guilt. But when he mounted the gallows on 23 February 1885, the executioner pulled the trapdoor lever and nothing happened. He tried again and then a

K ... is for **KNAVESMIRE**

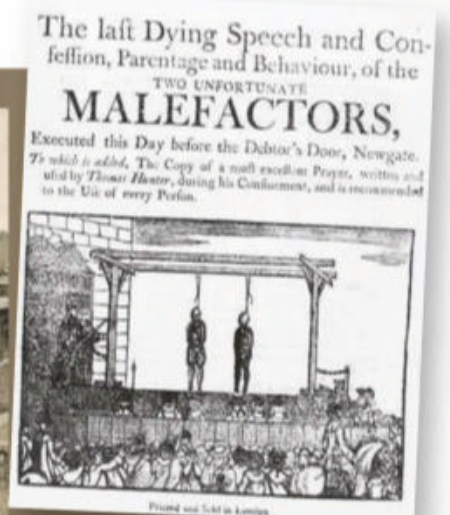
Few criminals have been as romanticised as much as Dick Turpin, but far from being a gallant highwayman, he was a horse thief, house-breaker and smuggler, assaulting anyone who crossed his path. He turned to highway robbery when his gang broke up and was caught in 1739, with murder added to his charge sheet. Turpin went to his death in “an undaunted manner”, bowing to the crowd as he mounted the gallows at Knavesmire, site of the present-day York Racecourse.

Dick Turpin bought a new coat and shoes, and hired five mourners for his execution



N... is for NEWGATE

One of the most notorious buildings in London for 700 years, Newgate Prison was located next to the Old Bailey law courts until its demolition in 1904. It replaced Tyburn as the site of the capital's gallows in 1783 and public executions drew large crowds until the practice was stopped in 1868, after which the condemned were hanged inside Newgate's forbidding walls and buried under flagstones. The last of 1,169 prisoners hanged there was George Woolfe, convicted in 1902 of murdering his girlfriend.



More than a thousand criminals met their maker at Newgate

O... is for OLIVER CROMWELL



Charles I never imagined he would be executed, because of his unshakeable belief that only God could decide the fate

of a king. But his Parliamentary enemies insisted he should be tried for treason after the Civil War ended. Oliver Cromwell, a politician who had become a brilliant officer in the Roundhead army, was one of the most determined that Charles should pay the ultimate cost and his signature was one of 59 on the death warrant. After his conviction, Charles was beheaded on January 30 1649 outside Banqueting House in Whitehall, the last English monarch to be executed.

Q... is for QUART OF ALE



The gallows on the banks of the Thames witnessed the death of hundreds of nefarious seamen from Elizabethan times to the 18th century, most of whom had been convicted of mutiny or piracy. On the day of their death, the prisoners were transported in a cart across London Bridge from their cells in Marshalsea Prison. Admiralty tradition held that the condemned were allowed a quart of ale at a riverside tavern before they arrived at the scaffold in Wapping. The hanging of pirates drew a good crowd, with the wealthier spectators chartering boats in the Thames for a

front-row view. Because of the nature of their crimes, pirates were hanged with a shortened rope to ensure a slower death from strangulation.

R... is for ROBERT PEEL

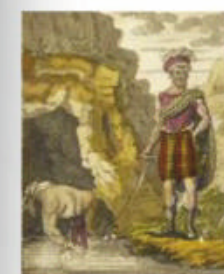


Twice serving as Prime Minister, Robert Peel was known as a law-reforming Home Secretary in the 1820s, most famous for creating the Metropolitan Police. But he also campaigned for a more efficient application

of state punishment, in particular the eradication of certain capital crimes, such as shoplifting, letter stealing, forgery and burglary. In addition, the practice of leaving corpses in gibbet irons

was abolished by the Hanging in Chains Act of 1834. Often described as a humane politician, in fact Peel was motivated more by a need to reduce the bureaucracy of capital punishment.

S... is for SAWNEY BEAN



Scotland's worst serial killer or a myth as enduring as that of the Loch Ness Monster? Legend has it that Bean

was born in 1530 in Galloway and grew into a wicked psychopath who, aided by his children, robbed, killed and ate dozens of travellers. Finally apprehended, Bean and his sons were executed by having their hands and feet cut off and being left to bleed to death; his wife and daughters were burned at the stake. Bean's exploits weren't publicised until 150 years after his death and some believe the story to be more fiction than fact.

P... is for PIECEMEAL

In medieval times, the most fiendish villains were executed by 'piecemeal'. This was the fate of the notorious outlaw Thomas Dun at Bedford in 1100. A contemporary account describes how Dun was alive when the executioner first "chop[p]ed off his hands at the wrists, then cut off his arms at the elbows... next his feet were cut off beneath the ankles, his legs chopped off at the knees, and his thighs cut off about five inches from his trunk". The head was then severed and the pieces hung up around Bedfordshire as a warning to other outlaws.

Execution by 'piecemeal' was surely the most brutal punishment meted out



T ... is for **TYBURN**



Situated at what today is the corner of Connaught Square, just north of Marble Arch, Tyburn served as the capital's hanging spot for centuries. The first recorded execution there was of William Longbeard in 1196 and the last was John Austen in 1783. The condemned were usually executed on a Monday, having been transported two-and-a-half miles from Newgate Prison to Tyburn in a cart. Once the prisoner was under the gallows, the noose was fastened around his neck and the horses kicked to bolt forward. It wasn't unusual for friends of the prisoner to pull on his legs as he thrashed to hasten death.

U ... is for **UNDER PRESSURE**



When executions were switched from Tyburn to Newgate they were carried out in the 'condemned yard', formerly known as the 'press-yard'. This derived its name from an old practice inflicted upon prisoners who refused to enter a plea at the Old Bailey. A board was placed on their horizontal body and weights were placed on top to put them 'under pressure'. Usually this persuaded them to enter a plea, but sometimes they refused and were crushed to death.

V ... is for **VOCABULARY**



A public execution was considered a family day out and these acquired a vocabulary of their own: people would talk of going to the 'collar day' or the 'hanging fair', to watch the condemned 'dance the Paddington frisk' or do the 'Newgate Jig' at the end of the rope. Vendors would arrive with souvenir carts and refreshments, while entertainment would be provided by minstrels and jugglers. The novelist William Thackeray was among 40,000 people present to see the execution of an infamous murderer in 1840, writing of the presence of "quiet, fat, family parties of simple honest tradesmen and their wives".

W ... is for **WITCHCRAFT**

Britain began executing witches in 1563 and continued until parliamentary acts outlawed the practice in 1736. During that time, hundreds, possibly thousands, of 'witches' were burned or hanged. Most were old women convicted on absurdly weak evidence. Having a cat, or even a hairy lip, could lead one to the stake, after a confession had been tortured out of the accused. Puritans were largely responsible for the slaughter, which they later exported to North America, notably in Salem in the 1690s.

Executing women convicted of witchcraft was only outlawed in the 18th century



"SIMPLY OWNING A CAT COULD LEAD TO A 'WITCH' BEING BURNED AT THE STAKE"

X ... is for **X-RATED**



Every condemned prisoner hoped for a swift execution, but it didn't always go according to plan. The politician Lord William Russell, convicted of plotting against King Charles II in 1683, paid his executioner to ensure a quick death, but the axeman required four blows to do the job. After the first, Russell reportedly cried out: "You dog, did I give you 10 guineas to use me so inhumanely?". Two years later, the Duke of Monmouth's head wouldn't budge after five axe blows, so the beheading was finished with a knife. The executioner on both occasions was Jack Ketch.

Y ... is for **YOUNGEST**



It is believed that the youngest criminal to be hanged was John Dean, convicted of burning down two houses in Windsor in February 1629. He was said to be either eight or nine years of age when

he went to the gallows. The youngest girl to be executed was 11-year-old Alice Glaston, but the crime she committed in Shropshire in 1546 wasn't recorded. A small number of young teenagers were hanged in the 18th century, but gradually public opinion turned strongly against the practice. There is no record of any child under the age of 14 going to the gallows in the 19th century, although 14-year-old John Bell was hanged at Maidstone in 1831 for killing two boys. The Children's Act of 1908 set 16 as the minimum age for execution, but no one under 18 was hanged in the 20th century.

Z ... is for **ZACHARY HOWARD**



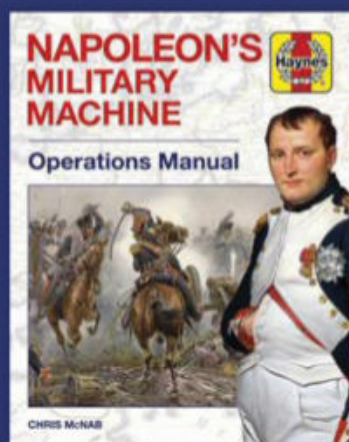
A wealthy landowner who fought for the Royalist army in the Civil War, Zachary Howard was left penniless by the Parliamentarians' victory. So he became a highway robber with a difference; he targeted only known supporters of Oliver Cromwell. When Howard was finally caught and sentenced to death in 1652, Cromwell insisted on attending his execution in the hope of watching Howard beg for his life. Instead he received a smile and a curse. ☹



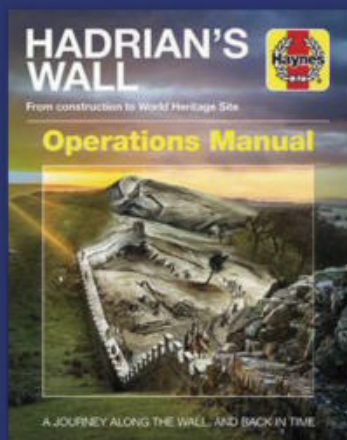
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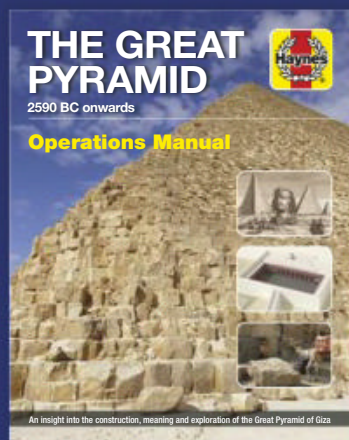
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With little to separate love and lust in ancient Athens, men and women turned to magic and potions to woo their beloveds

ANCIENT GREEK MAGIC



LOVE, MAGIC AND MURDER

The strange death of Philoneos, 430 BC

In ancient Athens, violent 'love' spells, voodoo dolls and toxic potions made seduction a dangerous game. **Philip Matyszak** unearths one tragic story of a love affair that turned deadly

Women in ancient Athens had little in the way of rights or power – is it any wonder that slave Dilitra turned to sorcery to save herself?



It can be devastating to discover that your partner no longer loves you. But for one young woman in ancient Greece called Dilitra, this was worse than any modern romantic can imagine. For Dilitra was a slave, and her lover was also her owner. This owner, a man called Philoneos, informed Dilitra that he would be taking her with him on a trip to Athens. One might imagine that Dilitra was looking forward to accompanying Philoneos, enjoying a break from household routine and taking in the sights of the big city. Sadly, Dilitra would be seeing more of Athens than she would like. Philoneos was tired of her and intended to sell her to a brothel.

Dilitra would become a *pornai* – a common prostitute. Athenian slang for these unfortunate women translates as ‘those who hit the dirt’, a phrase similar to the modern expression ‘hitting rock bottom’. These girls would stand naked at the doors of their dark dens,

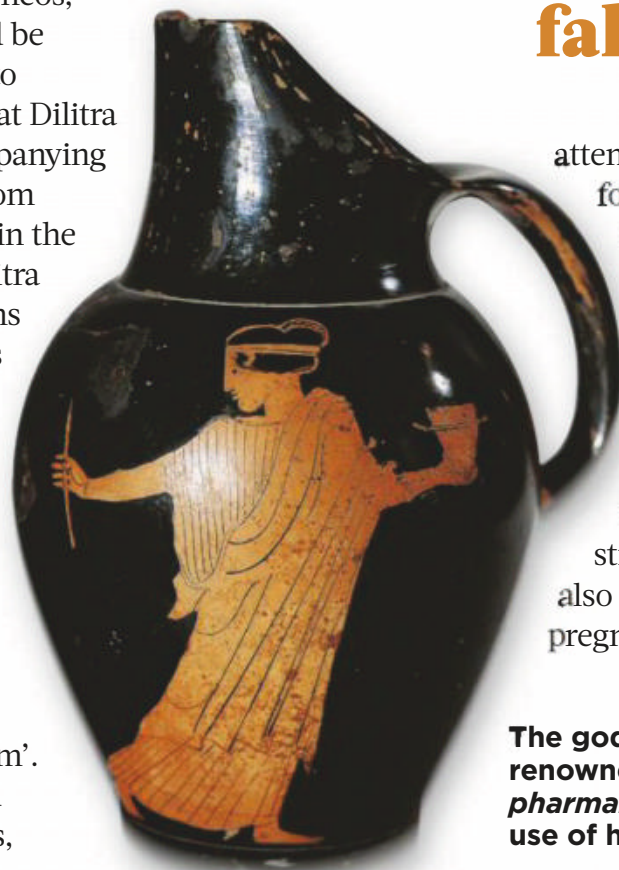
“Dilitra saw there was only one way to escape her fate. Philoneos had to fall back in love with her”

attempting to lure men inside for the cost of an obol per customer. (An obol was the equivalent of one or two loaves of bread.) Pictures on Athenian vases sometimes show the girls being encouraged to greater efforts by men wielding sticks or sandals. There was also the ever-present risk of pregnancy, which meant that

a girl had either to live on her savings while she carried the child to term or had to attempt a risky drug-induced abortion.

As the concubine of Philoneos, Dilitra had a relatively easy life. Her situation as the master’s bed-mate gave her a certain status in the household, and her other tasks were the usual ones of a domestic maid – fetching water, carding wool, doing basic cookery and serving at table. She regarded her sale to the brothel with total horror. It was something that she would do anything to avoid.

Fortunately, she was not to be sold immediately on arrival in the city. First, Philoneos intended to visit a friend, and then the two would travel together to Piraeus, the port of Athens. The friend was taking a ship to the island of Naxos, while Philoneos wanted to sacrifice at the temple of



The goddess Circe was renowned for her skill in *pharmaka*, the magical use of herbs and potions

Zeus. They then planned to have a convivial evening catching up on each other's affairs. The next day, Dilitra would be sold to one of the many brothels servicing sailors and workmen at the port (the other major 'red-lantern district' was on the opposite side of Athens in Keremeikos), and Philoneos would set off for home, alone but somewhat richer.

LOVE'S LABOUR'S COST

As far as Dilitra could see, there was only one way to escape her fate. Philoneos had to fall back in love with her. Or at least start lusting after her again – the classical Athenians had some difficulty distinguishing between the two conditions of love and lust. 'Love' as a spiritual bond unrelated to sex was in the ancient mind something one had for family members or perhaps a favourite horse or dog. Love between sexually compatible individuals was seldom distinguished from the act itself. What Dilitra needed, then, was an aphrodisiac, and as powerful a dose as could be procured at short notice. Once Philoneos was safely back in lust with his concubine, the immediate emergency would be over and Dilitra could start making plans for the future.

There were two ways to induce lust in an unsuspecting victim (three, if one counts old-

fashioned seduction). One was to use an *agon* spell. Such spells employed magic, usually through the power of a demon, to drive the victim mad with lust for a particular individual. A modern expert on the topic, Christopher Farone, has collected a number of these spells and notes that they differ from contemporary curses only in the desired effect on the victim. *Kolossoi* (voodoo-style dolls) show the violence

which underlay these rituals. One such 'love' doll, now in the Louvre Museum in Paris, shows a woman tied in the kneeling position with pins transfixing her eyes, stomach, breasts and sex organs.

Agon spells were generally preferred by men. Women, by and large, opted for *pharmaka* – drug-induced love – which the ancients considered to be a gentler alternative. Modern researchers would disagree: if you were going to inflict one upon yourself, you'd want to take your chances with a (probably) non-existent demon rather than with a chemical concoction that will certainly work, even if not as intended.

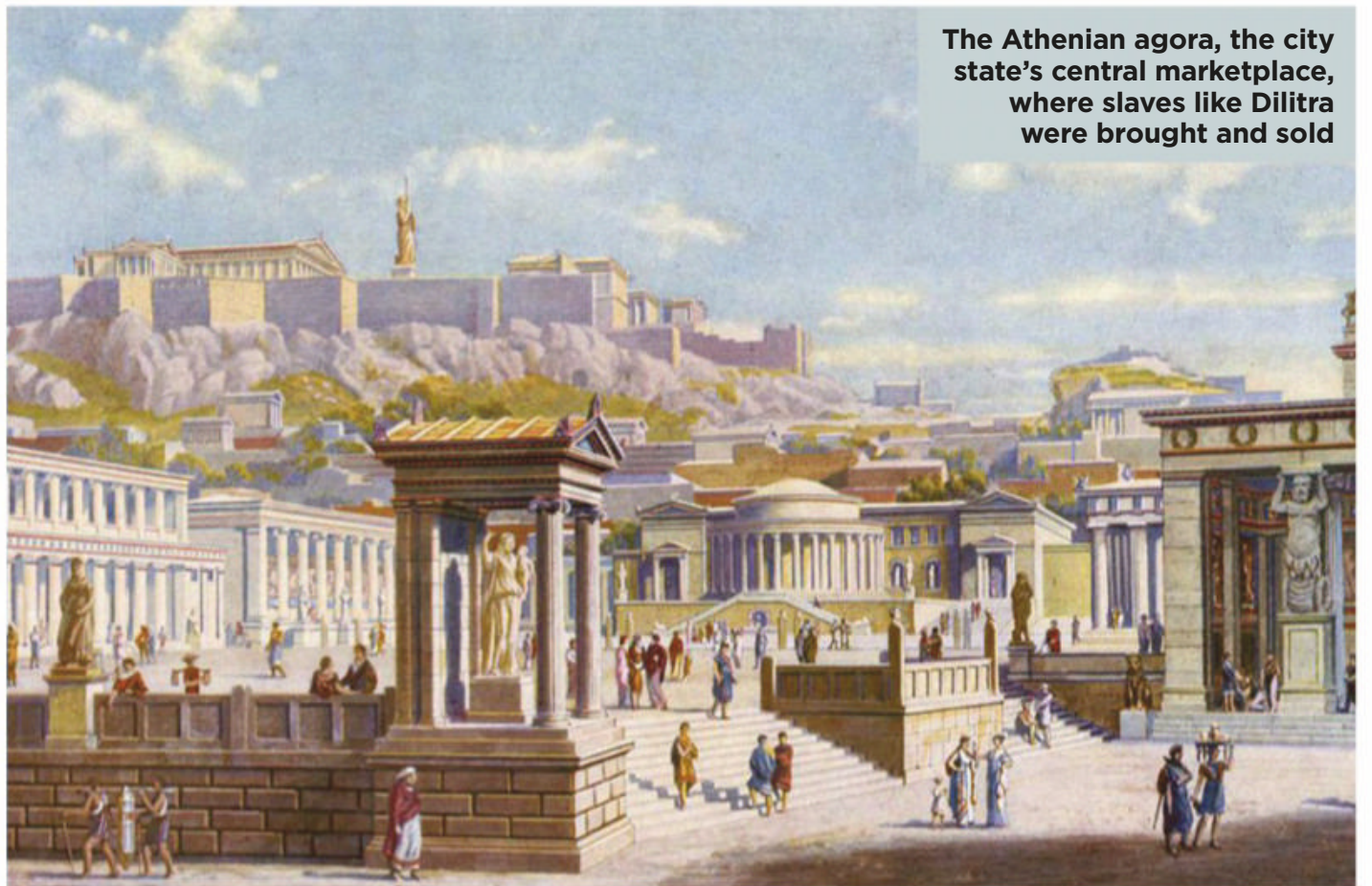
Dilitra opted to take the chemical route, and duly procured a love potion. To describe what happened next we can turn to the Athenian who laid out the case in court:

Philoneos performed his sacrificial ceremony. When that was done, the woman deliberated how to administer his potion, unsure whether it would be better to do so before or after dinner. She eventually settled on afterwards...

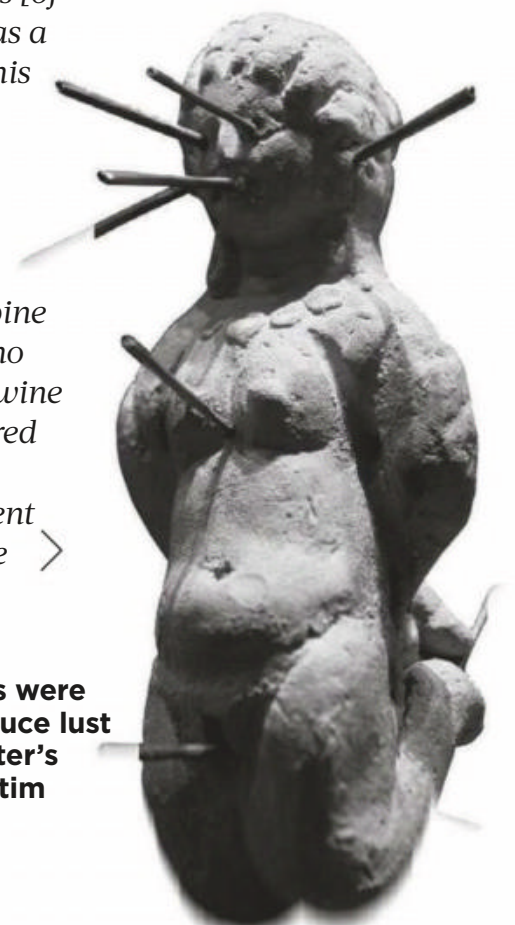
When the meal was eaten. The pair naturally poured libations [of wine], the one as a supplement to his recent sacrifice to Zeus, and the other for a safe journey by sea. It was the concubine of Philoneos who prepared their wine while they offered their prayers – prayers that went unheard, please >

Effigies like this were intended to induce lust in the spell-caster's unfortunate victim

The Athenian agora, the city state's central marketplace, where slaves like Dilitra were brought and sold



Women were not often given a choice over their husband; that was the task of her male relatives



Murder cases were presided over by a council of city elders on the Areopagus, a rocky outcrop overlooking the Acropolis



A 'LOVE' SPELL

Awaken you demons who lie here and find Euphemia, daughter of Dorothea. Do this for Theon, the son of Proechia.

Make her sleepless the whole night long, desiring him with insane lust until it brings her to his feet desperate for him as a partner in rut. May this spell bind her mind, her hands, her upper belly, her vulva and her head, so she desires only me, Theon...

Bring her to me [filled] with lust, longing, desire, and the urge to copulate. Burn her limbs, her liver her woman's body, until she comes to me and loves me. Make her stop ignoring me.

The love spell of Theon was found in a sealed clay pot along with two embracing wax dolls



note – and she poured the potion with it. Thinking herself inspired, she doubled up on Philoneos's dose thinking that if she gave him more he would love her in proportion.

Philoneos's friend, meanwhile, got the smaller dose that remained.

THE PLAN BACKFIRES

As cunning plans go, this one was a disaster. After gulping down his drink, Philoneos perished on the spot, literally dying for love.

The friend lasted three weeks and then died too. It was not exactly difficult for the authorities to work out the facts of the case, and probably also extract a confession from the distraught girl. Thereafter – probably because every Athenian nurtured a secret dread of being poisoned by a domestic slave – Dilitra was horribly tortured and executed.

There the tale might have ended, a sordid story with a tragic aftermath. But there was a twist, one which took over a decade to come to light.

Philoneos's friend had a son who was only a boy when his father died. Once he became an adult, the son astonished Athenians by launching a prosecution against his stepmother for the poisoning.

According to this new allegation, his father was not the collateral damage from a love potion gone wrong but the intended victim of a deep-laid murder plot. It was

Philoneos, and to some extent the unfortunate Dilitra, who were in fact the incidental victims of a cold-blooded killing.

The accuser testified that his stepmother and his father had been on bad terms before they discovered that Philoneos and Dilitra would be visiting. When the stepmother heard of the dreadful fate awaiting Dilitra, she sensed an opportunity. After talking to the girl and pretending to sympathise with her predicament, the stepmother admitted all was not well in her marriage also.

It was the wicked stepmother, claimed the prosecutor, who suggested administering a love potion to both men. In fact, she not only made the suggestion, but even supplied the lethal dose. Yet the stepmother never had love in mind. What was given to her accomplice was



“After gulping down his drink, Philoneos perished on the spot, literally dying for love”

poison, pure and simple. The intention was that both Philoneos and the stemother's husband would get an equal dose, and neither man would awaken the next morning. And there would be the unsuspecting Dilitra, ready to take the fall for her crime.

As is often the case, human nature prevented the execution of a perfect plan. Once Philoneos had consumed a double dose of poison, there was not enough to immediately kill his friend. That friend was brought back to his home, where his vindictive wife could not refrain from gloating over her victim. Her boasting amounted to a full confession – a confession which the dying man managed to gasp out to his young son just before he perished.

Thereafter, that son had to live in the house of his father's murderer. He pretended to get along with her and his stepbrothers, but always >

WOMEN IN ATHENIAN LAW

"A good woman's name should never be mentioned, neither blame nor praise." So remarked the Athenian leader Pericles in a speech to the people explaining why Athens was superior to any other city in the world. In effect, in this utopian paradise, women were meant to be invisible.

A respectable woman stayed at home, looking after her children and organising the household. The most important person in such a woman's life was her *kyrios*, a word meaning something between 'lord' and 'master'. This was the senior male in a household and he had

power over the family's women, children, slaves and property.

Should a woman find herself without a *kyrios*, it was the job of her nearest male relative to either find her one or marry the woman herself in order to assume that position. Generally speaking, a woman had little choice in her husband. It was assumed that love would follow marriage rather than precede it.

Also, because of her legal status, a woman had no place in the courtroom. Even if on trial for her life, a woman had to rely on her *kyrios* to represent her in court before male judges and jury.



In ancient Athens, respectable women busied themselves with household chores and childcare

In another renowned trial on the Areopagus, the courtesan Phryne is said to have been disrobed to illicit the sympathy of the elders



Mythical sorceress and healer Medea was said to have used her magical powers to help Jason obtain the Golden Fleece

This woman oversaw the death of her husband without pity, with no hint of mercy. Now, in the name of justice you should do the same to her. She was the murderer who deliberately plotted his death, he the defenceless victim who perished from her violence. I repeat gentlemen – a violent death under a friend's roof, just as he was on the point of sailing. She planned the murder, she sent the poison, and arranged that he should drink it. If she is without shame or respect for the Gods, why should such a woman deserve sympathy from you or anyone else?

SKewed JUSTICE

The prosecution offers a gripping narrative that would have resonated with the male audience, all of whom could easily place themselves in the sandals of the deceased Philoneos or his friend. A modern courtroom would probably dismiss the charges out of hand. In terms of evidence (none) and witnesses (ditto, since Dilitra was executed a decade before), the case is very thin. The supposed confession was relayed by a dying man, possibly not of completely sound mind, to someone with an interest in the stepmother being found guilty (there may have been an inheritance involved).

In the modern era, we have seen stories of sexual assault survivors being believed despite the lack of evidence or witnesses. While those so accused today are often found guilty only in the court of public opinion, Athenian courts were close to being exactly that. Whether the stepmother was actually found guilty or innocent, we will never know – the trial's outcome is unknown. Knowing what we do about women's lives in Ancient Greece, we may suspect that her chances were not good. 📍

THE SOURCE OF THE SCANDAL

All we know of this dramatic murder trial, brought years after Philoneos's poisoning, is a speech by one Antiphon of Rhamnus (a village in Attica, outside Athens). It is quite possible that this Antiphon was himself the son of the poisoned husband and brought the case on his own behalf.

However, we also know that Antiphon (480–411 BC) was a professional speech-writer. In fact he is the author of an extant text of rhetorical speeches designed to serve as templates of speeches in court. It is therefore possible that Antiphon wrote this speech for a client to deliver, because in Athenian courts the prosecution and defence worked without lawyers and spoke directly to the judges.

The historian Thucydides (author of *The History of the Peloponnesian War*) tells us that Antiphon had a reputation for clever sophistry that made him both distrusted by the public yet sought out by those seeking to make the maximum impact in a courtroom or in a public assembly. As such, he would just as likely work on behalf of a suitor presenting his case for marriage as he would on imploring a court to avenge a father's deathbed wish for justice.

with the intention that once he had grown up and left home he would bring the true story of his father's murder to light.

Such is the case for the prosecution, the details of which we know because the text prepared for the court has been preserved and can still be read today. The speech, by Antiphon of Rhamnus, is long on rhetoric and short on facts. It is even shorter on actual evidence. Indeed, even the stepmother's alleged confession has to be inferred from the context of the speech, a flavour of which is given here.

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"This is an extremely helpful course both for those starting proofreading and for those who, like me, need to be reminded of everything we have forgotten. Above all, I thoroughly enjoyed the tone of voice of the author – he writes with authority but manages to keep a light touch."

Dorothy Nicolle

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Maddy Glenn "The Writers Bureau's Proofreading and Copy Editing course taught me invaluable knowledge about English grammar. This course has hugely developed my editing skills, especially when working with American English. Earlier this year my business, *Softwood Self-Publishing*, boomed. I am now fully booked till November 2019."

Carol Browne "I am an English honours graduate but even so I discovered that my grammar was not as perfect as I had believed! After completing the Proofreading & Copy Editing course I set myself up as a part-time freelance proofreader with a small band of regular clients."



Tommy Cloherty "The course reminded me how much I'd forgotten! It made me revise my punctuation and grammar and it also helped me to build a client base."



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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



IRON MAN

Despite having failed the army medical, Adolf Hitler (*circled*) went on to win the Iron Cross twice during World War I



WHAT DID HITLER DO IN WORLD WAR I?



Although Adolf Hitler was in his mid-20s at the outbreak of World War I, he initially tried to avoid conscription. Then, when made to enlist, he failed the medical. Yet by some clerical error or confusion, he still ended up in uniform.

Hitler served in the Bavarian army at the First Battle of Ypres, known as the Massacre

of the Innocents. His regiment of 3,600 was reduced to 611, and he was one of only 42 survivors from his 250-strong company. He was also wounded at the Somme and was twice awarded the Iron Cross for bravery, once on the recommendation of a Jewish comrade.

Then, on 15 October 1918, Corporal Hitler got caught in a mustard gas attack by the

British. He spent the rest of the war recovering from temporary blindness, learning of Germany's surrender in a military hospital. At that moment, as he later claimed in *Mein Kampf*, "the idea came to me that I would liberate Germany, that I would make it great".



GETTY IMAGES X1



WRIST ASSESSMENT
Handfasting survives to this day, particularly north of the border

12

The number of men who landed in Scotland with Charles Edward Stuart (aka Bonnie Prince Charlie) at the beginning of his rising in 1745.

Why do we say 'tying the knot'?

The image of a knot and the act of two people binding their lives together seem to marry up pretty clearly. Knots have appeared in marriage ceremonies in cultures all over the world. 'Tying the knot' may come from one, where the wrists of the bride and groom are actually bound – loosely – by a sash, cord or ribbon in an act called handfasting.

Evidence is slim so instead of getting all tied up in knots, suffice to say that it is commonly attributed to the Celtic nations, particularly

Scotland. The practice of handfasting may not have represented the actual wedlock, but the betrothal or engagement.

When the custom had something of a resurgence in the 18th century, it had been altered. It was thought – although there is no credibility to the claim – that it originally signified a trial marriage, which lasted a year and a day. From then, handfasting has become more common, usually taking place outdoors and, in Scotland, can be legally binding.

WHAT WAS POENA CULLEI?

The Romans had an inventive, if decidedly sickening, streak when it came to punishing those guilty of high crimes. Making the condemned fight gladiators, tossing them to lions, turning them into human candles... All of these unsavoury deeds were meted out to the convicted.

Poena cullei was no different. This particular death penalty was reserved for those guilty of parricide (the murder of a parent or close relative), a crime that was deemed especially heinous in Rome. Derived from the Latin for 'penalty of the sack', the punishment involved being sewn up in a leather bag and tossed into a river. Although records differ, the victim may also have been joined on his watery execution by a snake, a dog, a rooster and/or a monkey.



BODY BAG
St Julian of Antioch is placed into a sack of serpents by the Roman authorities

WHAT WAS THE 'THIN RED LINE'?

When a band of soldiers holds out against a larger force – no matter the colour of their uniform – they might be referred to as a thin red line.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the term originated in a battle involving the British redcoats. During the Crimean War, the 93rd (Sutherland Highlanders) Regiment stood against the Russian cavalry at the Battle of Balaclava on 25 October 1854. Their commander Colin

Campbell, 1st Baron Clyde, had told them, "There is no retreat from here, men. You must die where you stand." And stand they did. Their line, two deep rather than the usual four, drove off the cavalry within minutes.

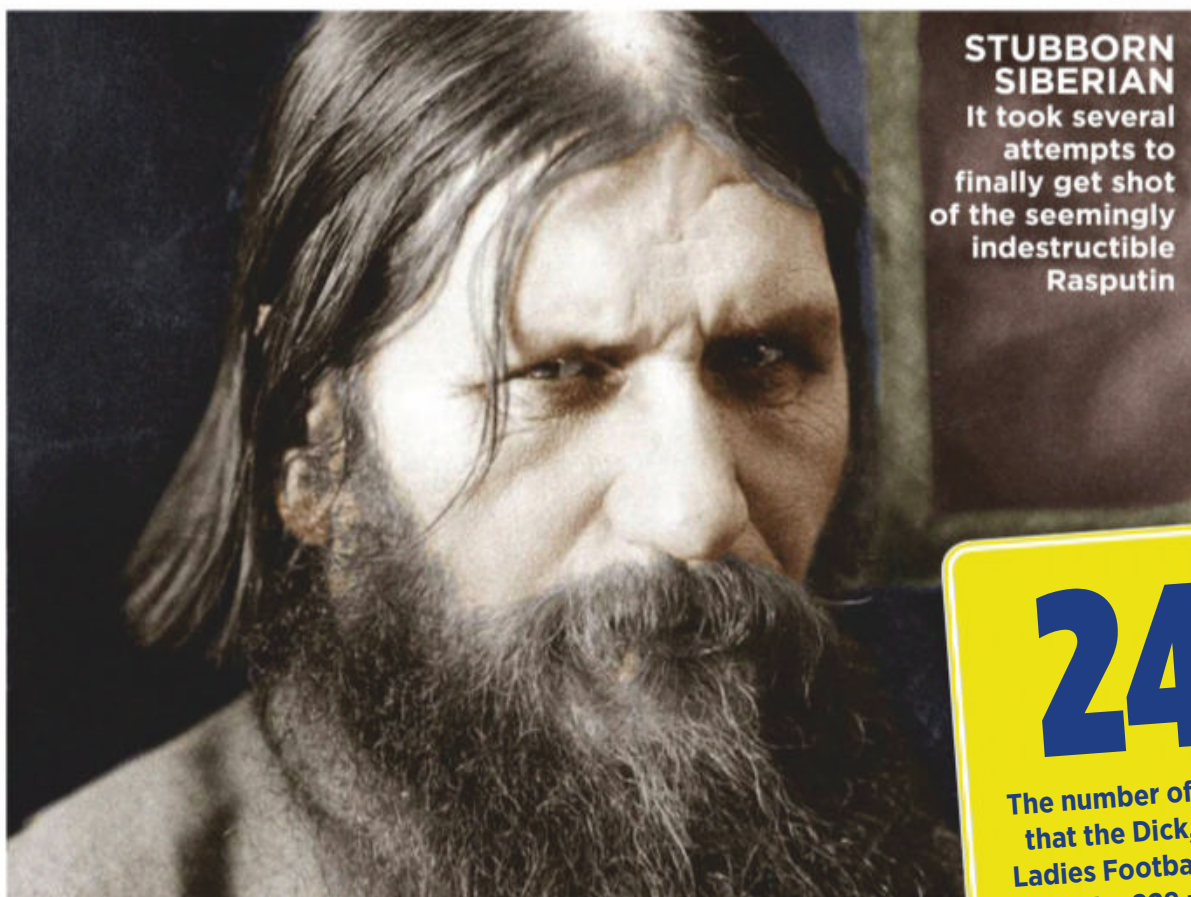
Watching the action was a correspondent for *The Times*, William H Russell, who described

the Highlanders as a "thin red streak, tipped with a line of steel".

The victory caused a stir back home, not least as it detracted from the disastrous Charge of the Light Brigade on the very same day. Russell's phrase, while slightly altered, became a banner of British composure in battle.



SCARLET FEVER
The narrow lines of the British redcoats are recalled by the long-lasting phrase




STUBBORN SIBERIAN
It took several attempts to finally get shot of the seemingly indestructible Rasputin

24

The number of times that the Dick, Kerr Ladies Football Club lost in the 828 matches they played during the 48 years of their existence between 1917 and 1965.

HOW DID RASPUTIN DIE?

 The Siberian mystic – part prophet, part charlatan – charmed his way to the top of Russian society. And that’s charmed in a near-magical sense and *not* due to his charisma – if his foul body odour, disdain for hygiene and mad staring eyes were anything to go by. Rasputin convinced Alexandra, wife to Tsar Nicholas II, of his abilities to soothe their haemophiliac son, but he was despised by many who claimed he was a force of evil.


These beliefs were only strengthened by the accounts of his death. On the night of 30 December 1916, Rasputin

went to the home of Prince Felix Yusupov, who was part of a plot to kill him. He and his small cabal took their ‘guest’ to the basement and fed him cakes laced with poison. Yet he didn’t die.

So they shot him, beat him and, when that didn’t finish Rasputin off, shot him some more. They then threw him into an icy river – although there were rumours that he even lived then, only dying, finally, by drowning.

Whatever the truth, Rasputin had warned that if he died at the hands of the nobles, the Russian monarchy would fall. The revolution broke out a year after his prolonged assassination.

What did Edward ‘confess’?

 This king of England is arguably best known for dying – as he did so in 1066 and precipitated a seriously bloody contest for the throne. It was also after his death that he picked up the sobriquet ‘Confessor’.

The name was nothing to do with owning up to a mistake or admitting to a crime, but was a celebration of his deep piety. (It also helped him stand apart from another king, Edward the Martyr.) In 1161, the now-venerated Edward was canonised by Pope Alexander III – and a ‘confessor’ was a title given to a saint who had not been martyred. Simple as that.

I’VE GOT SOMETHING TO CONFESS

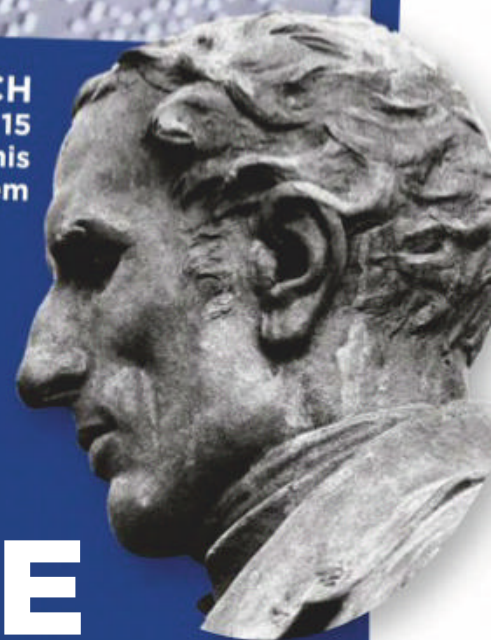



CONFESSIONS OF A KING
Did Edward have something to admit to?



COMMON TOUCH
Louis Braille was only 15 when he developed his tactile writing system

WHEN WAS BRAILLE INVENTED?

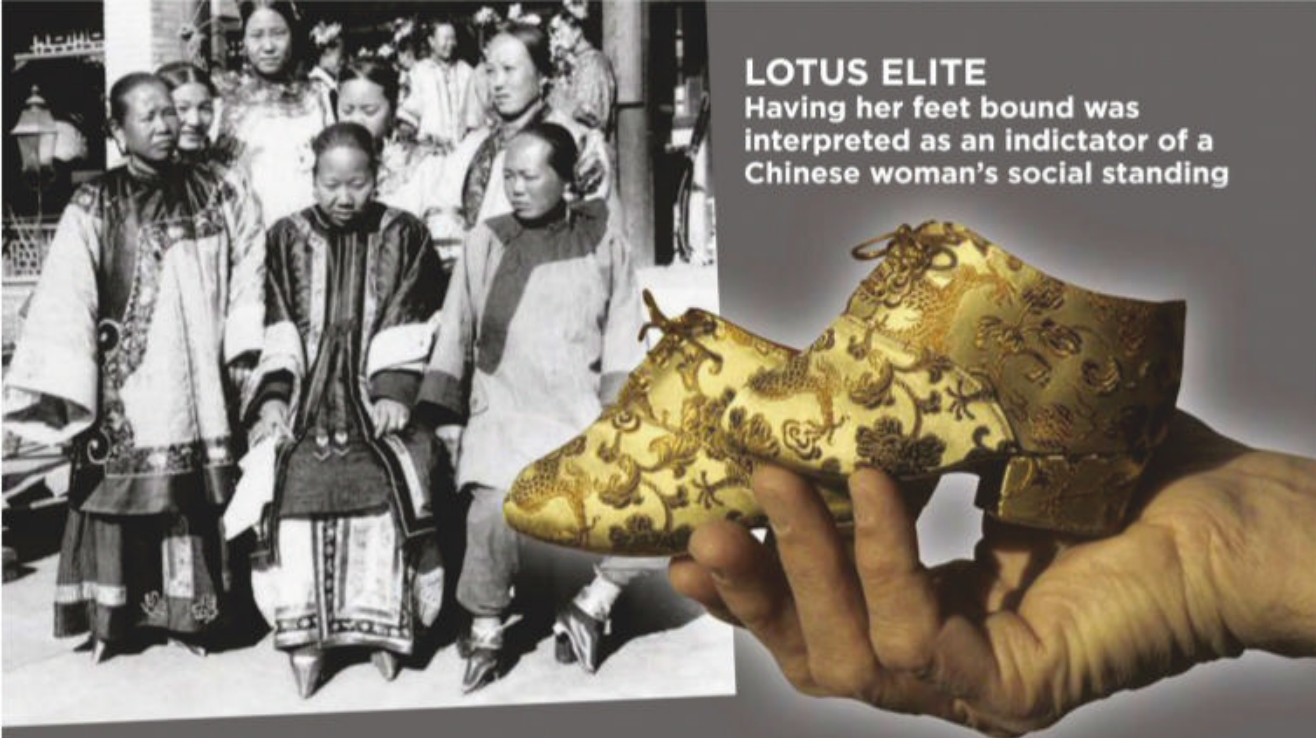


 Charles Barbier, a captain in Napoleon’s army, knew reading urgent orders at night could be dangerous, as lighting a candle could give away your position. So, by puncturing holes in a piece of paper with his blade, he created a form of writing to be read by fingertip.

Barbier hoped his ‘Ecriture Nocturne’ (night writing) would catch on in the military, but this didn’t happen. So, in 1821, he approached the National Institute for Blind Children in Paris. This is why the world-changing reading and writing system is called Braille, not Barbier.

One of the students, Louis Braille, greatly improved the soldier’s overly complex and unintuitive code. By 1824, when he was just 15, he had developed a standardised alphabet. Braille had been blinded at the age of three after stabbing himself in the eye with one of his father’s tools. The wound became infected, which spread to the other eye.

Now, with patterns of raised dots in a six-dot cell, it was possible to form 63 characters, including letter combinations, punctuation, numerals and, later, mathematical symbols and musical notes. “We do not need pity, nor do we need to be reminded that we are vulnerable,” he said. “We must be treated as equals, and communication is the way we can bring this about.”



LOTUS ELITE
Having her feet bound was interpreted as an indicator of a Chinese woman's social standing

WHY DID CHINESE GIRLS HAVE THEIR FEET BOUND?

Target Be warned: this custom is not for the squeamish. Or for anyone. Foot binding would be performed on girls at an early age, sometimes as young as four. The feet were soaked in animal blood, and toenails clipped short, before the little toes were broken and bent underneath the sole, and the arch crushed. The feet were then bound painfully tightly, leaving them in a horrifically cartoonish triangular shape.

A professional binder was preferred as a relative may be too sympathetic or upset by the cries of pain. During the process, which took years, the wrappings would be replaced – getting tighter each time – so the feet could be cleaned. Infections, though, weren't considered a problem as they caused toes to rot and fall off, making the foot even smaller. The ideal length

of an adult woman's foot after binding was three inches. This was the 'golden lotus'.

Like a corseted waist in Europe, small feet were a mark of refinement. They indicated a woman's status, the suggestion being that they didn't need to walk because they were so wealthy. This made for a desirable bride among families hoping to climb the social ladder. But it was also a form of control, crippling women into obedience.

Foot binding lasted a millennium, until its eventual ban in 1912. That said, it continued until the mid-20th century, meaning there are still women alive today with lotus feet.

29

The number of days after the sinking of the *Titanic* that a film about the disaster was released. *Saved From The Titanic* starred survivor Dorothy Gibson.

Who did **Madame Tussaud's** first waxwork represent?

Target During the French Revolution, Marie Tussaud enjoyed a lucrative, if slightly grisly, business in serving the country's insatiable demand for the death masks of those who had died on the guillotine. King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette and Reign of Terror figurehead Maximilien Robespierre all became her models.

As a royal sympathiser, Tussaud had rubbed shoulders with the elite of France before the revolution. This meant she had to become at ease with working on the heads of former friends. She had even known the king himself as she served as art tutor to his sister. Being commissioned to create these masks was seen by revolutionaries as symbolic of Tussaud's commitment to the new republic.

She was already well known before the death mask money started rolling in. While learning the skill from Swiss modeller Philippe Curtius as a teenager, Tussaud had moved to Paris and began making wax portraits of high-society personalities. Her very first model, in 1777, was of the famed philosopher Voltaire, made a year before his death. It has not survived, unfortunately, but not many of her originals are left at all, especially after a fire at her London museum in 1925.

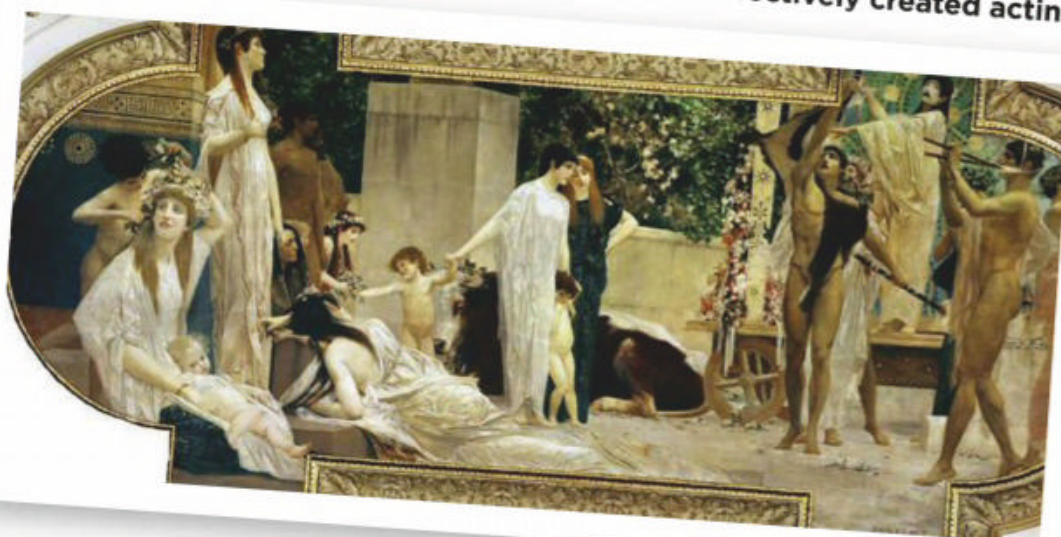


FACE OFF
Marie Tussaud made her first wax lookalike prior to the French Revolution

Who was **the first stage actor**?

Target There's a reason why actors are referred to as thespians. Take a bow Thespis of Icaria, the person given centre stage as the first to play a character. Before his debut in Ancient Greece of c534 BC, performers would simply narrate the story with a choral accompaniment, but according to some sources, including Aristotle, Thespis stood apart and pretended to be the god Dionysius. That simple act created a new style of theatre.

Thespis went on to win the first documented acting competition, then took his show on the road, loading a wagon with masks, costumes and props.



OPENING ACT
By playing the part of Dionysius, Thespis effectively created acting



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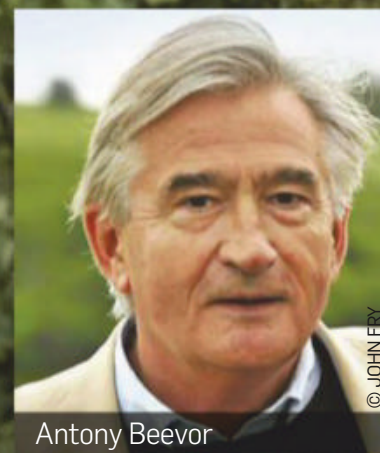
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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening
in the world of history
over the coming weeks

EXHIBITION

Manga

The British Museum, 23 May to 26 August,
www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/exhibitions/manga.aspx

The largest manga exhibition to take place outside Japan is coming to London, allowing visitors to catch a glimpse of this extraordinary art form. With fans across the globe, these comic books and graphic novels rely on visually immersive images, rather than extensive text, to tell exciting stories. Although modern manga originated in the early 20th century, it can trace its roots back much further. The exhibition will explore how manga has captivated audiences around the world and how it has evolved into the world of anime and even gaming.

Asirpa, one of the main
characters in Satoru Noda's
Golden Kamuy series



Manga's roots predate the
20th century, as shown by this
1880 stage curtain from the
Shintomiza Kabuki Theatre

WHAT'S ON

All the fun of the
Georgian Fair..... p81



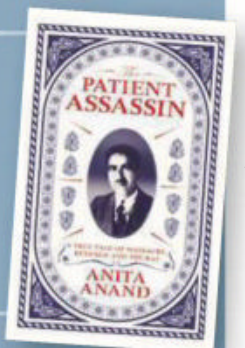
BRITAIN'S TREASURES

Fishbourne Roman
Palace's discoveries... p86



BOOK REVIEWS

This month's
hot history
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POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of
historical landmarks... p92



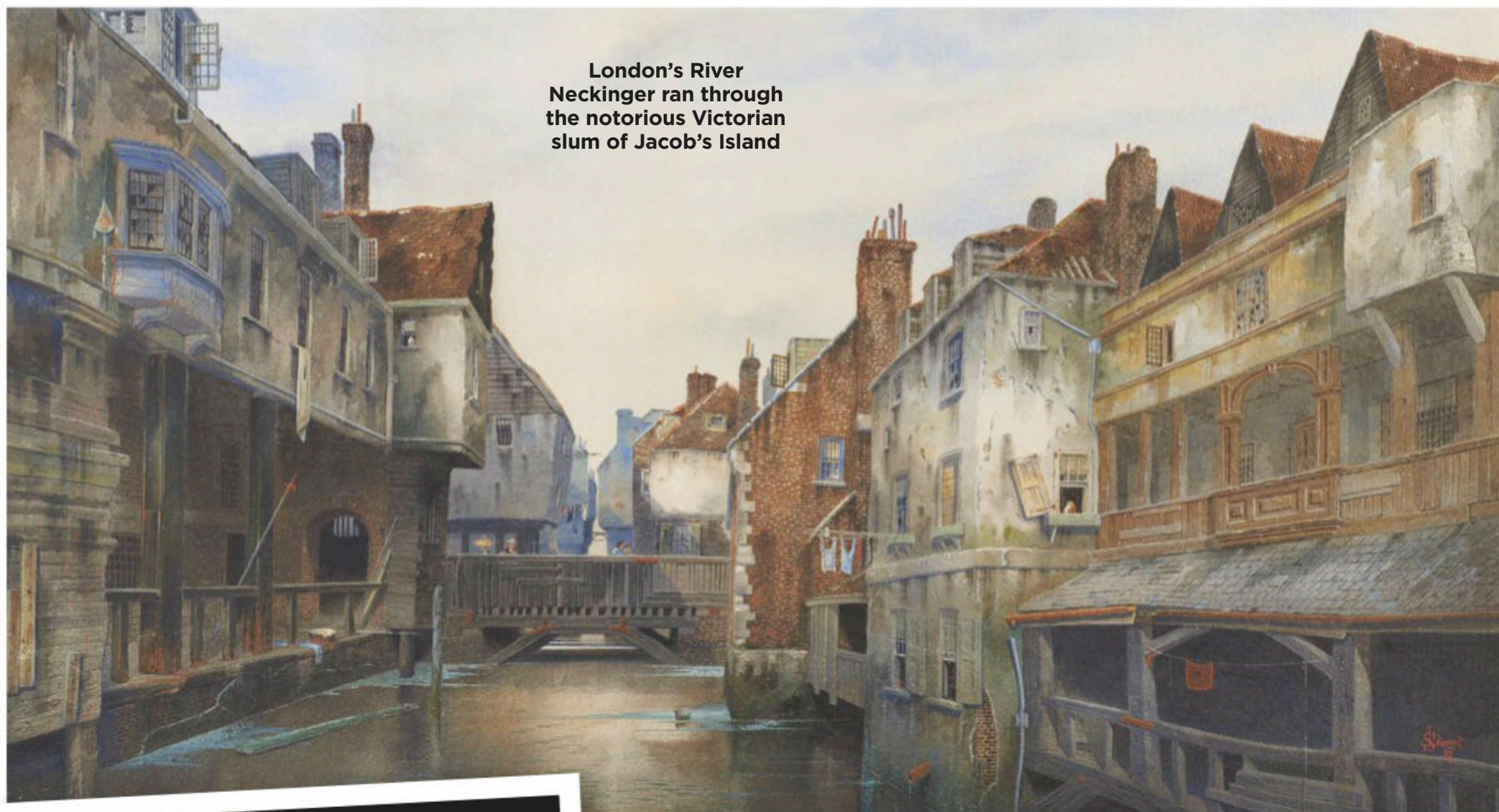
RE-OPENING

Army Flying Museum

Middle Wallop, Hampshire, www.armyflying.com

The extraordinary history of the Army Air Corps and its predecessors is being refreshed after a £2.5 million refurbishment at the Army Flying Museum. New interactive displays will bring the museum into the 21st century, while still retaining some of the popular exhibits such as the World War I area and the glider collection. A new, immersive audio-visual presentation will tell the story of the attack helicopter, with more personal stories being added throughout the museum to add a distinctly human touch.





London's River Neckinger ran through the notorious Victorian slum of Jacob's Island



Many artefacts recovered from the river beds of London will be on show, including this Bronze Age sword and this dog collar

EXHIBITION

Secret Rivers

Museum of London Docklands, 24 May to 27 October, www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands/whats-on/exhibitions/secret-rivers

London was once a city of numerous rivers, waterways that shaped both the capital's geography and the lives of those who lived beside them. Many of these rivers are now subterranean, flowing, mostly unseen, beneath the hustle and bustle of the city. They include the Tyburn, which once boasted the best salmon fishing in London, and the Fleet, which flowed into the squalid slums immortalised in Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*. This fascinating exhibition will unearth the stories of these hidden waterways and what life was once like on their banks.





Neil Oliver and Kate Williams are both bound for Bath

FESTIVAL Bath Festival

17-26 May, www.bathfestivals.org.uk/the-bath-festival

The historic city of Bath will play host to a wide variety of speakers and authors at its annual multi-arts festival. Neil Oliver will talk about his book *The Story of the British Isles in 100 Places*, while Hallie Rubenhold will discuss the bestselling *The Five*, which focuses on the untold lives of Jack The Ripper's victims. Other talks include those by Kate Williams, James Holland and Michael Parkinson.

TO BUY

Battling Knights wooden kit

Museum Selection, £24.99
www.museumselection.co.uk/gifts-by-type/battling-knights-wooden-kit

This is an ideal gift to bring the family together on a collective mission to build this 62-piece medieval scene. Once constructed, simply turn the handle to watch two knights battle it out in front of the castle. Suitable for ages 9+.



Relive the jousts of yore in your very own home

Take a ride on a Georgian-era steam train at Beamish Living Museum in County Durham



EVENT

Georgian Fair

10-12 May, Beamish Living Museum, www.beamish.org.uk/events/georgian-fair-2019

Enjoy all the fun of the fair 1820s style when the Squire of Pockerley hunts for new staff for the upcoming months at his hiring fair. Will he choose you as his next gardener or housemaid? Enjoy all the festivities of a Georgian fair, including Punch and Judy shows, live traditional music, a travelling magician, demonstrations of 19th-century crafts (such as basket making) and birds of prey displays, as well as rides on an 1820s-era steam train.



TALK

The Rise, Fall and Rise of the British Station

24 May, Ironbridge Gorge Museum
www.ironbridge.org.uk/events/talks-lectures/the-rise-fall-rise-of-the-british-station

This will be a fascinating talk by author/columnist Sir Simon Jenkins, a passionate advocate for the British railway station. Charting its evolution from Victorian heyday to later decline, Jenkins also examines the conservation work being undertaken to restore these stations to their former glory.



The now-disused railway station at Coalbrookdale, which served the Ironbridge Gorge until its closure in 1964

▶ ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- ▶ **We Are Bess** – A new angle on Bess of Hardwick's story, told through the experiences of modern women. Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire, from 16 February to 2 June, bit.ly/2Og9fel
- ▶ **Chiddingstone Castle Festival** – Historians speaking at this literary festival include Tracy Borman and Giles Milton. Chiddingstone Castle, Kent, 4-7 May, bit.ly/2TR191J

DEATH BY VANITY

Lucullus, the original owner of the splendid palace according to some, met a sticky end – he was executed by Emperor Domitian for having the temerity to name a new type of lance after himself.

The museum was built over the palace's north wing, protecting more than 20 mosaics



BRITAIN'S TREASURES...

FISHBOURNE ROMAN PALACE West Sussex

Discovered by accident in the 1960s, the remains of this substantial Roman residence represent one of the archaeological finds of the century

GETTING THERE

The palace is situated just off the A27 outside Chichester. Fishbourne train station is just a five-minute walk away.

**OPENING TIMES AND PRICES**

Times vary during the year. Open 10am–5pm daily, closing at 4pm from November and then only open on weekends from 16 December until 31 January 2020. Adults £9.80, children £5.

FIND OUT MORE

www.sussexpast.co.uk/properties-to-discover/fishbourne-roman-palace

To students of Roman Britain, the name 'Fishbourne' means just one thing – the location of the largest residential building from Roman times to be found on these shores. In fact, it's the largest Roman residence discovered north of the Alps, one with a footprint larger than that of Buckingham Palace.

Fishbourne Roman Palace, just west of Chichester on the West Sussex coast, could so easily have remained undiscovered. It was stumbled upon by accident in 1960 when the excavation equipment of a Portsmouth Water Company workman, digging a trench in a

local field, hit some rubble. But this was not any old rubble. After alerting the engineer in charge, who in turn contacted a local archaeological committee, the rocks ultimately turned out to be part of the boundary wall of a huge Roman structure.

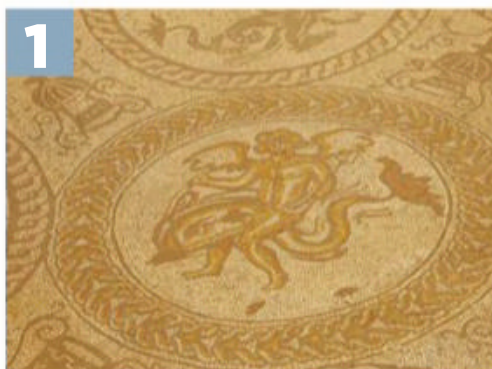
The site drew archaeologists from across the world to assist with the dig for the next decade. But as impressive as the scale of the palace was, the real revelation was the brilliance and proliferation of the site's mosaics. Two hundred separate examples were unearthed, many of which had been perfectly preserved for nearly two millennia.

The archaeologists determined that timber buildings had been originally built on the site, speculating that these might have been warehouses supplying a nearby military base in the significant Roman town of Noviomagus Reginorum (modern-day Chichester).

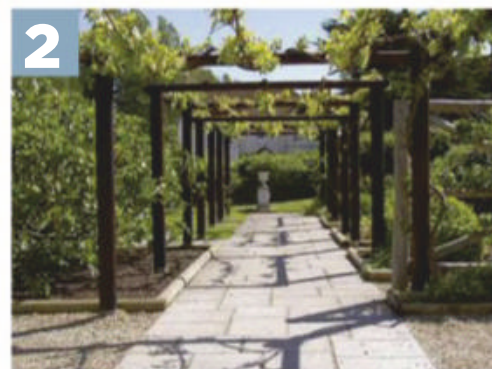
A masonry building, often referred to as a proto-palace, then followed, and it is from this that the palace itself grew, built as a series of extensions from around AD 75 onwards. The emphasis was on luxury; the bathhouse alone consisted of seven different rooms. Work had even begun on an



WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



1 CUPID ON A DOLPHIN MOSAIC
This exquisite almost-complete 2nd-century mosaic shows Cupid astride a dolphin, surrounded by mythical sea creatures and shells.



2 FORMAL GARDEN
The spectacular formal garden has been planted to recreate its original plan, including box hedging and other plants authentic to the Roman period.



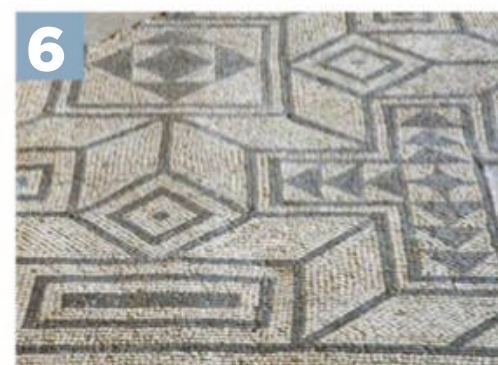
3 INTAGLIO
This intaglio (engraved gem) ring was found during excavations in 1997. The black onyx depicts a winning racehorse and is a superb example of the gem-cutter's art.



4 HYPOCAUST
Fishbourne's hypocaust is one of the best-preserved examples of Roman underfloor heating in the country. It worked by circulating hot air beneath the floors.



5 COLLECTIONS DISCOVERY CENTRE
An area for researchers and staff, the centre provides access to artefacts collected from the site, plus a dedicated conservation lab.



6 BLACK AND WHITE CROSS AND BOX MOSAIC
This geometric mosaic provides an optical illusion, and was possibly created by workers who made the mosaics at Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli.

"The mosaics were the work of Italian master craftsmen"

underfloor heating system for the palace, although this was never to be completed.

Several theories have arisen about the identity of the palace's original owner. It may have been Tiberius Claudius Togidubnus, a local chieftain and ally of Rome who served as ruler of several territories in the early days of the occupation. Another suggestion is that it was the home of Sallustius Lucullus, Roman governor of Britain in the late first century.

The mosaics adorning the palace floors were originally black and white, not dissimilar to those found at Pompeii. As the decades passed and tastes changed, coloured patterns were added, as well as more elaborate pictures, the most most famous being a striking


depiction of Cupid riding on a dolphin. These were the work of master craftsmen brought in from Rome, charged with both creating them and training locals in their art.

By the late 1960s, a museum was built over the palace's north wing, allowing the public to study the numerous mosaics in situ but at close quarters. The palace garden has also been recreated and planted with plants authentic to the Roman period. Half a century on, it remains a very popular tourist destination.

The palace's south wing is believed to extend under nearby housing and the A259 road. Trial excavations on private land south of the road suggest that a colonnade led to a vast terrace, which in turn led to the

northernmost reaches of the serpentine Chichester harbour.

Around AD 280, the palace was destroyed by a huge fire. The blaze occurred during turbulent times for Britain, a period when it was run as a breakaway state by the self-proclaimed Emperor of the North, Carausius. It was restored to Roman control by Constantius, although it is unclear whether the palace's demise occurred as a direct result of Rome's reclamation of power. As one of the project's lead archaeologists, Barry Cunliffe, noted, "the fire could just as well have been caused by a careless workman as by the invading army of Constantius".

Nearly 2,000 years later, a more careful workman unlocked the secrets of Fishbourne once more. 

WHY NOT VISIT...

More historical treats around the South Downs

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

With its green copper roof and 84-metre spire, this is a superb 12th-century cathedral in both the Norman and Gothic styles.
www.chichestercathedral.org.uk

WEALD & DOWNLAND LIVING MUSEUM

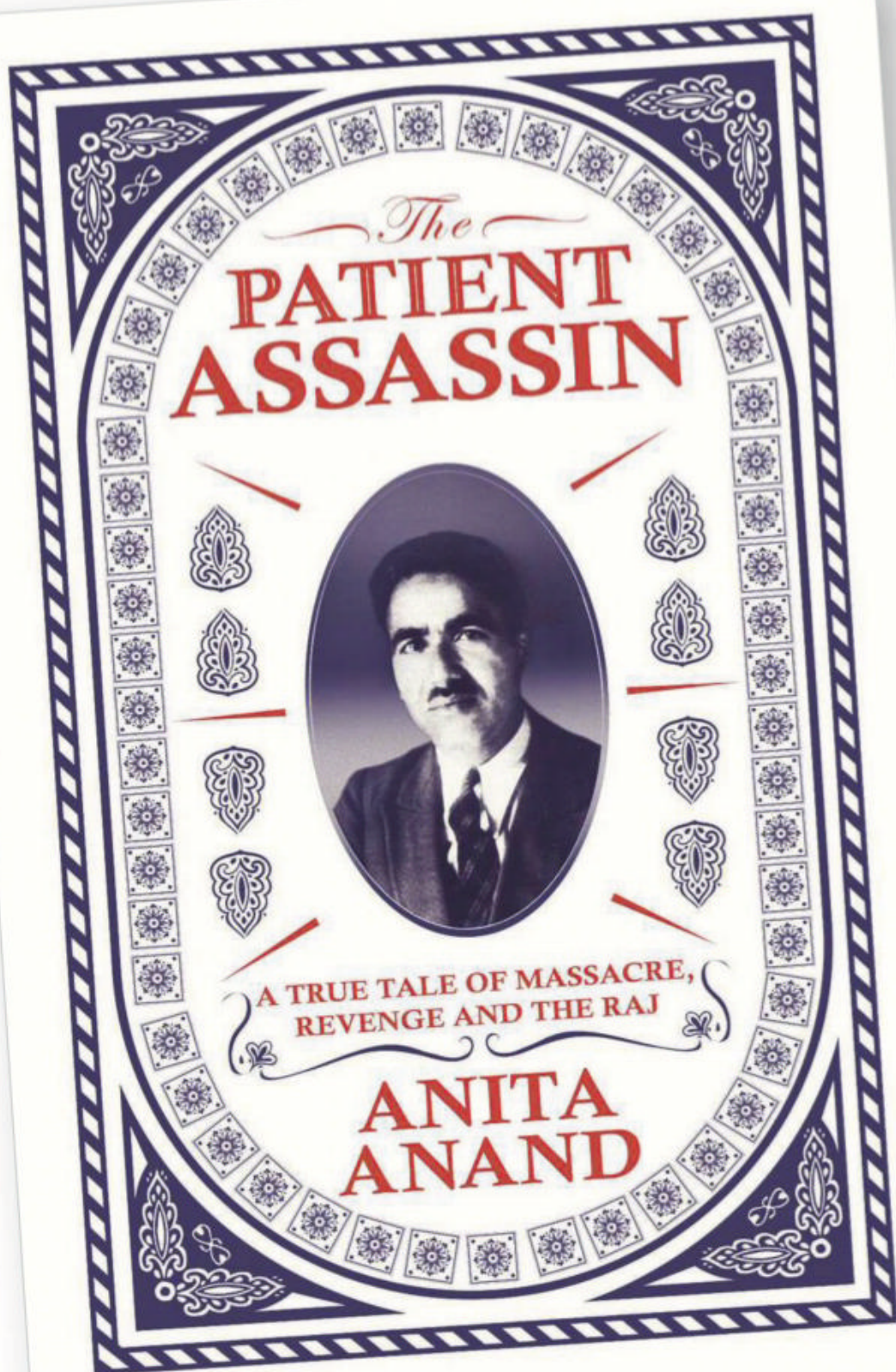
More than 50 original rural buildings from the 10th century onwards have been saved, relocated and rebuilt in this idyllic open-air museum.
www.wealddown.co.uk

GOODWOOD HOUSE

This sumptuous country house, built around 1600, is home to one of the country's finest private collections of art.
www.goodwood.com/estate/goodwood-house

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads

BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

The Patient Assassin: A True Tale of Massacre, Revenge and the Raj

By Anita Anand

Simon and Schuster, £20, hardback, 384 pages

The events of the 1919 massacre in Amritsar still shock: a British military commander ordering his troops to fire on a crowd of unarmed Indian civilians, gathered to listen to political speeches and spend time with their neighbours. Hundreds were killed, and many more wounded. It was a pivotal moment in the relationship between India and the British Empire and, as this new book explores, had a lasting effect on those who were there. Anita Anand traces the story through the eyes of one man, young revolutionary Udham Singh, who set out to kill the province's governor in revenge for the massacre. It's a timely, personal look at a horrific moment in history.



"Anand traces the story through the eyes of one man, young revolutionary Udham Singh, who set out to kill the Punjab governor in revenge"





MEET THE AUTHOR

Anita Anand tells us how she travelled across the world to research Udham Singh's story, as well as revealing her close family connection to the massacre in Amritsar

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the Amritsar massacre. What happened, and why is it important we mark it?

On 13 April 1919, Brigadier General Reginald Dyer drove an armed convoy into a walled garden in Amritsar called Jallianwala Bagh, blocking the only meaningful exit. Without issuing an order to disperse, he opened fire on unarmed men, women and children. The numbers of casualties are disputed: the British said 379 were shot, while the Indians put the number at more than 1,000. We do know 1,650 bullets were fired, most of which found a target.

It was the turning point in the fight for independence in India. Before then, people largely believed that power could be shared with the British. After the massacre, most people wanted the British out entirely. It also made many vow revenge – including the protagonist of this book, Udham Singh.

What do we know about Singh?

He was born a low-caste orphan in Amritsar, not far from Jallianwala Bagh. The events of 13 April made him dedicate the rest of his life to getting revenge against the people he saw as responsible. My book is about the transformation of a man who had nothing, but who travelled across the world befriending enemies of the Raj and learning things that would turn him into the perfect assassin – all so that, in 1940, he could walk into a crowded hall in Westminster and shoot the former lieutenant governor of Punjab at point-blank range through the heart.

How did you follow Singh's journey?

A wealth of documentation is held by the British government and, although much of

it was never meant to see the light of day, Freedom of Information requests mean that it has slowly has. Archives at the British Library and the National Archives have been a great help. I travelled to India to talk to people from Singh's hometown, and there are also people here in the UK who still have memories of him, including a man who sits in the House of Lords and who used to play on his knee as a child. It has been genuine investigative journalism, which is why I found it rewarding.

What is your personal connection to this story?

My grandfather was in the garden on the day of the massacre but, by a quirk of fate, left his friends to run an errand. When he came back, he wasn't allowed anywhere near the garden and had to wait 24 hours to find out that his friends were dead. He lived with survivors' guilt for the rest of his life.

The other family connection is that my husband's great-uncle lived with Udham Singh when he came to England on his mission of revenge, and that was the compulsion for me to write the book.

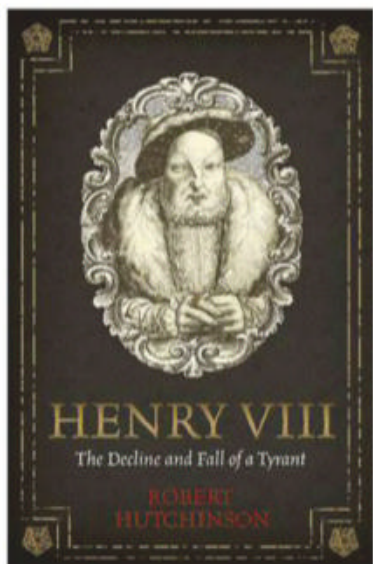
What new view of this story would you like to leave readers with?

I want people to realise how familiar this story is. It's about radicalisation of a dispossessed youth, totalitarian regimes and Russian interference. It's also about how one person can make a difference to international politics.

Finally, I wanted to show how easy it is for an individual's life to effectively be deleted on one side of the world and yet venerated on the other. In India, Singh has godlike status, yet here in Britain, he is hardly known about. He represents a really dark part of our history that we should all be aware of.



“In Britain, Singh is hardly known about. He represents a dark part of our history that we should all be aware of”

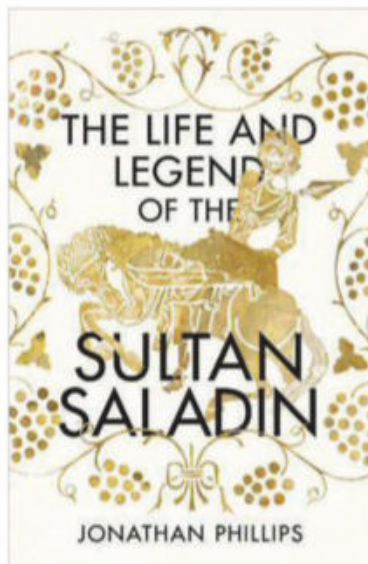


Henry VIII: The Decline and Fall of a Tyrant

By Robert Hutchinson

Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £20, hardback, 448 pages

Few of Britain's monarchs have captured the imagination so completely as Henry VIII, yet he was not always the lusty, imposing man who stares out at us from Holbein's 1536 portrait. As this new biography examines, his life was increasingly beset by personal insecurity, political intrigue and physical ill-health. A sobering look at the real man beneath the Tudor propaganda.

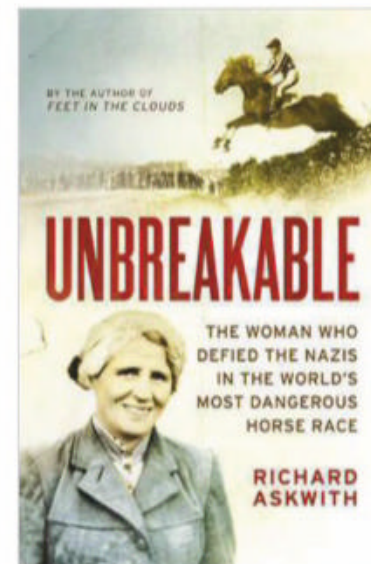


The Life and Legend of the Sultan Saladin

By Jonathan Phillips

Bodley Head, £25, hardback, 496 pages

The exploits of the mighty 12th-century Muslim leader Saladin in the Crusades, including capturing Jerusalem in 1187, continue to echo throughout history. But how much do we really know about the man behind the myth, and why does his story still captivate almost 900 years later? These are the questions at the heart of this weighty, wide-ranging profile, which makes fascinating connections across centuries and continents.

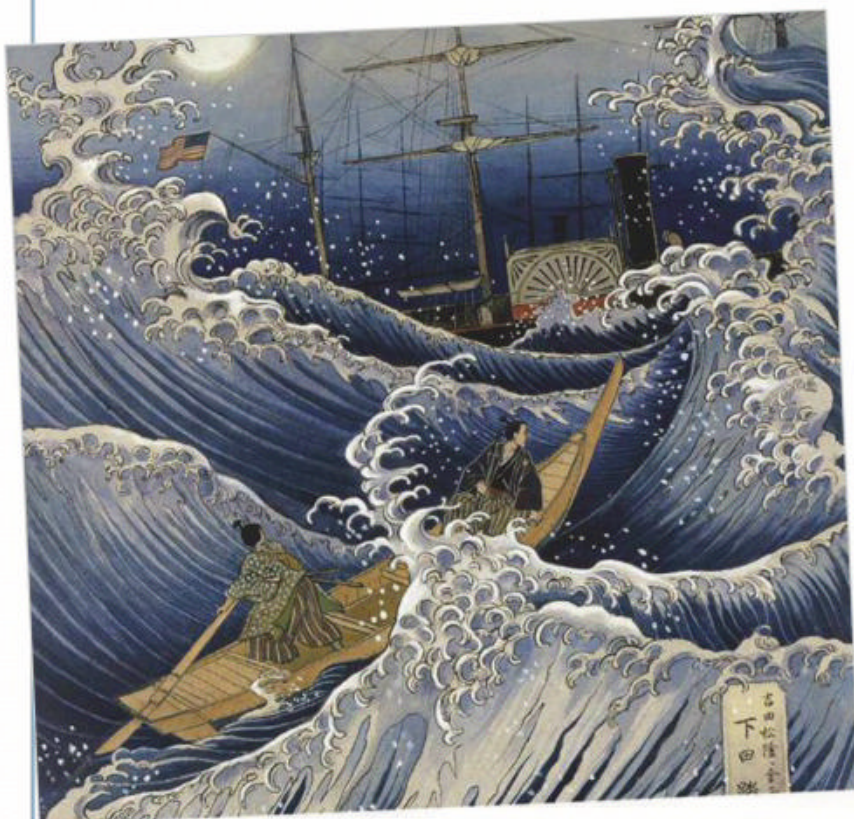


Unbreakable: The Woman Who Defied the Nazis in the World's Most Dangerous Horse Race

By Richard Askwith

Yellow Jersey, £16.99, hardback, 432 pages

Lata Brandisová's story is remarkable. When she announced she wanted to take part in Europe's toughest steeplechase, male riders said they'd be dishonoured by her presence. Within a decade, Brandisová had become both a sporting icon and a symbol of resistance against the Third Reich. Stirring, vivid stuff.

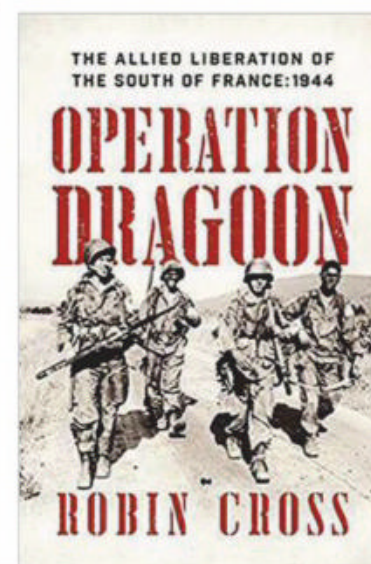


Upheaval: How Nations Cope with Crisis and Change

By Jared Diamond

Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 512 pages

Jared Diamond does not shy away from enormous topics: his most famous book, *Guns, Germs and Steel*, charted the fortunes of entire civilisations. This new history has a similarly macro focus, exploring how nations around the world have coped with catastrophe, from invasion to dictatorship. It's fascinating not only for its insights into the past, but also for the lessons these episodes can teach us about the ongoing shocks of the 21st century.



Operation Dragoon: The Allied Liberation of the South of France, 1944

By Robin Cross

Pegasus, £19.99, hardback, 304 pages

D-Day gets all the headlines, but Operation Dragoon – originally planned for the same day – is a likewise compelling story. This account of the month-long campaign to secure the French Riviera sets the parts played by the French Resistance, key Allied commanders and ordinary soldiers, offering a new perspective of a pivotal part of World War II's final years.

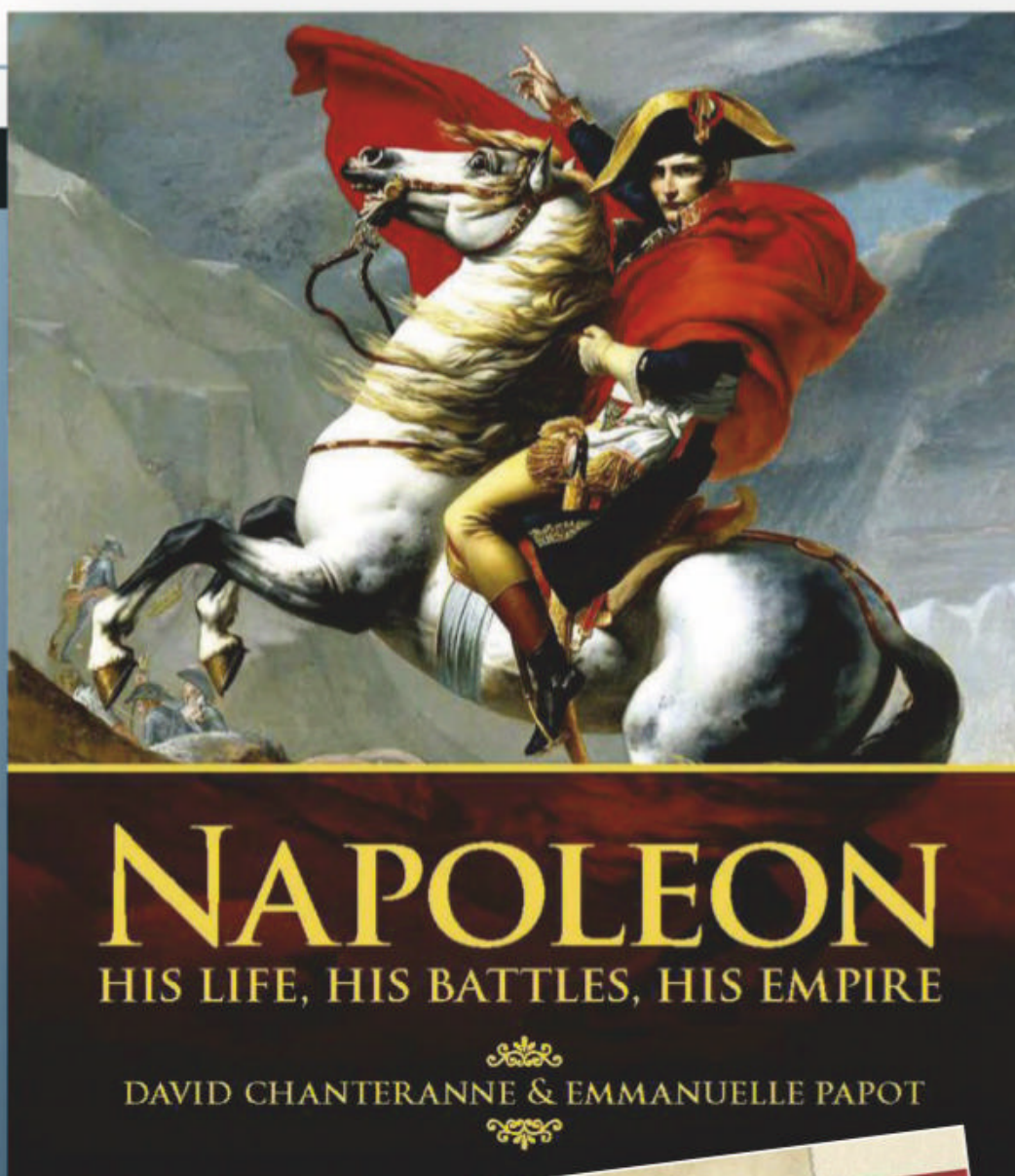
**VISUAL
BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

Napeolon: His Life, His Battles, His Empire

By David Chanteranne & Emmanuelle Papot
Andre Deutsch, £20, hardback, 160 pages

Famed French statesman and military leader Napoleon Bonaparte is set to be big news this year – 2019 marks the 250th anniversary of his birth – and this visual guide offers an accessible introduction to his career. From his formative years, marked by discipline and nationalist fervour, to his later, extraordinary military successes during the French Revolutionary Wars and his reign as emperor, it's a richly illustrated look at an illustrious life.

**“This is a richly
illustrated look at
an extraordinary,
illustrious life”**



**Napoleon's life straddled –
as well as shaped – some of
the most turbulent decades
in European history**

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

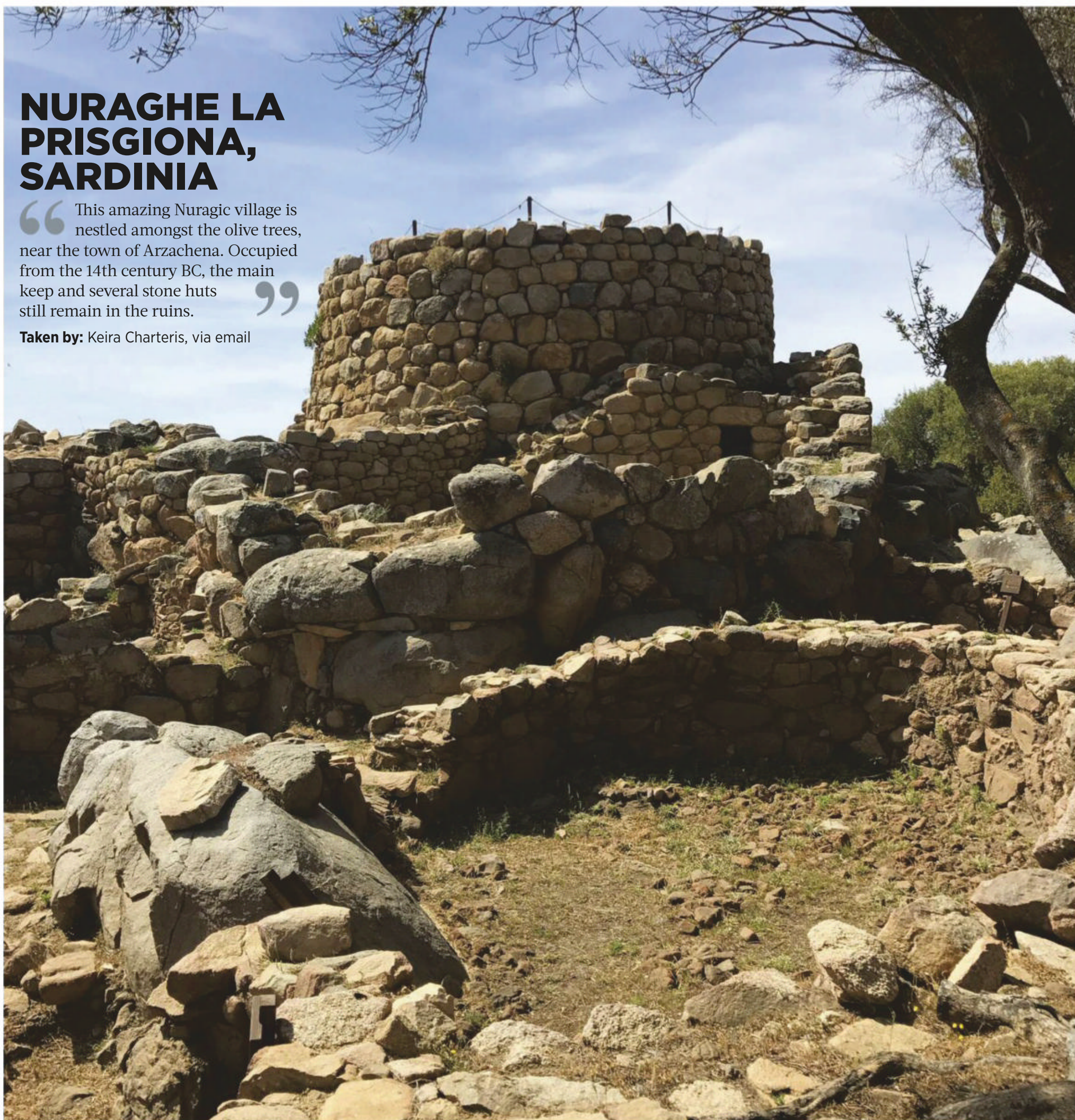
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NURAGHE LA PRISGIONA, SARDINIA

“ This amazing Nuragic village is nestled amongst the olive trees, near the town of Arzachena. Occupied from the 14th century BC, the main keep and several stone huts still remain in the ruins. ”

Taken by: Keira Charteris, via email





NOTRE DAME DE LORETTE, FRANCE

“ This is a German cannon on the battlefield of Lorette, which saw heavy fighting between German and French forces in 1914-15. The battlefield has been preserved and sits next to the Ablain Saint-Nazaire Military Cemetery – the largest French military cemetery, with more than 40,000 burials and remains. It’s a really haunting place to visit. ”

Taken by: Marie Lynch, via email



BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND

“ Belfast is a city of many hidden treasures. The illustrious City Hall, built at the height of Belfast’s Industrial prowess, includes a stunning stained glass window commemorating the contribution of Belfast citizens to the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939. In 1936, 320 people from Ireland went to Spain to fight Franco and fascism. ”

Taken by: Thérèse Cecil via email

FEELING INSPIRED?

Send your snaps to us and we’ll feature a selection every issue.
photos@historyrevealed.com

READERS' LETTERS

Get in touch – share your opinions on history and our magazine

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Reading your article on the Black Country Living Museum (February issue) brought back many happy memories of more than 100 visits I have made to the museum since it opened, either as a teacher with groups of children often dressed in 'Victorian' costume, or by narrow boat

My father helped to find artefacts for the industrial workings from Aceles and Pollack where he worked.

LETTER OF THE MONTH

“I have seen the project grow from empty fields to the fabulous museum it is now”

with friends at Easter (when eight grown-ups could be seen egg rolling down the cobbled alley by the pub).

On one memorable occasion, in the dark of the coal mine with a group of ten-year-olds after the explosion, one child shouted out “Bloody hell, what was that?”

A good friend of his was the first baker in the shop that is now near the chippy. My grandparents were customers of the chemist's shop and, as children, my husband and his sister used to stand on the canal bridge and cadge lifts on the narrow boats as they passed under.

FELINE FAVOURS

The Top Ten feature in your March 2019 issue mentioned that several cats have lived at Downing Street over the years, where they contributed to keeping the mouse population down.

As it happens, Neville Chamberlain had a pet cat too. After the 1938 Munich agreement, many people, who mistakenly thought that war had been averted, sent gifts to the prime

minister. One kindly soul went further and sent two fish as a gift for Chamberlain's cat. **✉ John Lockwood** Washington, DC

SLAVERY DAYS

After reading Cathy Newman's interview (Your History,

Christmas issue), I felt I needed to comment. I agree with her that being able to stop the first slave ship to the colonies would be a wonderful thing, but how about the slave ships that plied their trade to supply slaves to the British plantation owners in the Caribbean?

Slavery was a terrible institution and never should have been started, but the white men weren't the ones who plundered Africa. The majority of slaves were

TIME TRAVEL

“Turning back the boat would transform race relations today,” claimed Cathy Newman about the first slave ship to the colonies



HISTORY REPEATING

The Black Country Living Museum salutes the region's contribution to the industrialisation of Britain

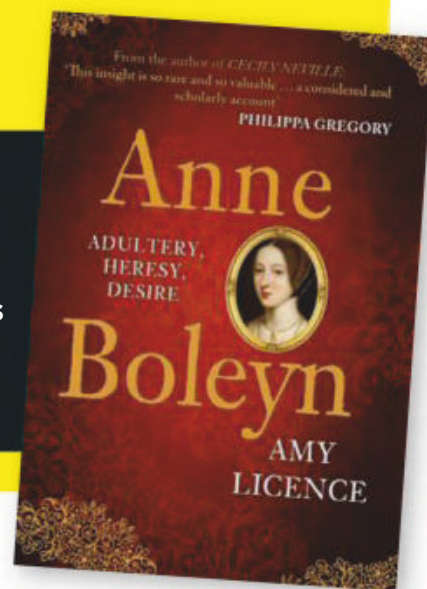
When I first retired from teaching, I would have loved to have become the headteacher at the museum's school.

I have seen the project grow from empty fields to the fabulous museum it is now, where the spirit and hard

lives of Black Country folk is truly evoked. The place is well worth a visit, particularly with children.

✉ Lauren Gibbons,
Via email

Lauren wins a copy of Anne Boleyn: Adultery, Heresy, Desire by Amy Licence, a new study of the life and loves of the woman who would become Henry VIII's second wife. Licence examines the couple's intense relationship in vivid detail, while also unpicking the complicated, tangled politics of the Tudor court.



captured and sold by other black tribesmen.

While I disagree with slavery, neither I nor my family ever owned slaves and I do not feel the need to pay reparations.

✉ **Willard Brush**
Lakeland, Florida

STILL UNSOLVED?

I just finished reading the March issue, in which it was reported that DNA tests have proved that the man who was imprisoned in Spandau was indeed Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess.

I, for one, remain unconvinced. Many years ago, I read the book mentioned in your article, which was written by the English military doctor, W Hugh Thomas, who was assigned to oversee Hess's medical care. He served in that capacity for a number of years and recounted many of his findings, which I found to be



NO SUBSTITUTE

DNA testing has debunked the theory that Rudolf Hess was not actually incarcerated in Spandau Prison. Kirk Kellogg disagrees

compelling. Among them are the following:

1. Hess was wounded in World War I, and his doctor had his original military medical records, which fully described the wounds he suffered. Those wounds did not match those of the prisoner in Spandau.
2. The behaviour and manner of the prisoner in Spandau

were in many ways radically different from those that were known to characterise Hess, the latter being notably more intelligent and sophisticated. Just one of many examples given was the fact that the real Hess liked classical music, whereas the prisoner did not.

If, indeed, some kind of deal had been made whereby Hess was replaced with a lookalike, you can be sure that every measure would have been taken by the authorities to ensure that the ruse would continue both to and beyond the grave.

I would urge anyone interested in the above not to form any final opinions until they have read the book written by Hess's doctor.

✉ **Kirk Kellogg**
via email

COMFORT ZONE

Our cat Aethelstan really enjoys old copies of *History Revealed*.

✉ **@Ruthie52063311**



THE CAT SAT ON THE MAG
Aethelstan finds comfort in the pages of his favourite history publication

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ARE YOU A WINNER?

The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 65 are:

Barbara Bacon, Nuneaton
Mrs Derbyshire, Clitheroe
Tony Herbert, Leicester

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of Lucy Worsley's *Jane Austen At Home*.

HISTORY REVEALED

EDITORIAL

Editor Paul McGuinness
 paul.mcguinness@immediate.co.uk
Production Editor Kev Lochun
 kev.lochun@immediate.co.uk
Staff Writer
 Emma Slattery Williams

ART

Art Editor Sheu-Kuei Ho
Picture Editor Rosie McPherson
Illustrators Marina Amaral, Ed Crooks, Sue Gent

CONTRIBUTORS & EXPERTS

Anita Anand, Kehinde Andrews, Julian Humphrys, Philip Matyszak, Gavin Mortimer, Gordon O'Sullivan, Josette Reeves, Jon Savage, Mark Simner, Nige Tassell, Rosemary Watts, Jonny Wilkes, Lucy Worsley

PRESS & PR

Communications Manager
 Dominic Lobleby 020 7150 5015
 dominic.lobley@immediate.co.uk

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager Helen Seymour

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

Group Advertising Manager
 Tom Drew tom.drew@immediate.co.uk
Advertisement Manager
 Sam Jones 0117 314 8847
 sam.jones@immediate.co.uk
Subscriptions Director
 Jacky Perales-Morris
Subscriptions Marketing Manager
 Natalie Lawrence

PRODUCTION

Production Director Sarah Powell
Production Co-ordinator
 Lily Owens-Crossman
Ad Co-ordinator Jade O'Halloran
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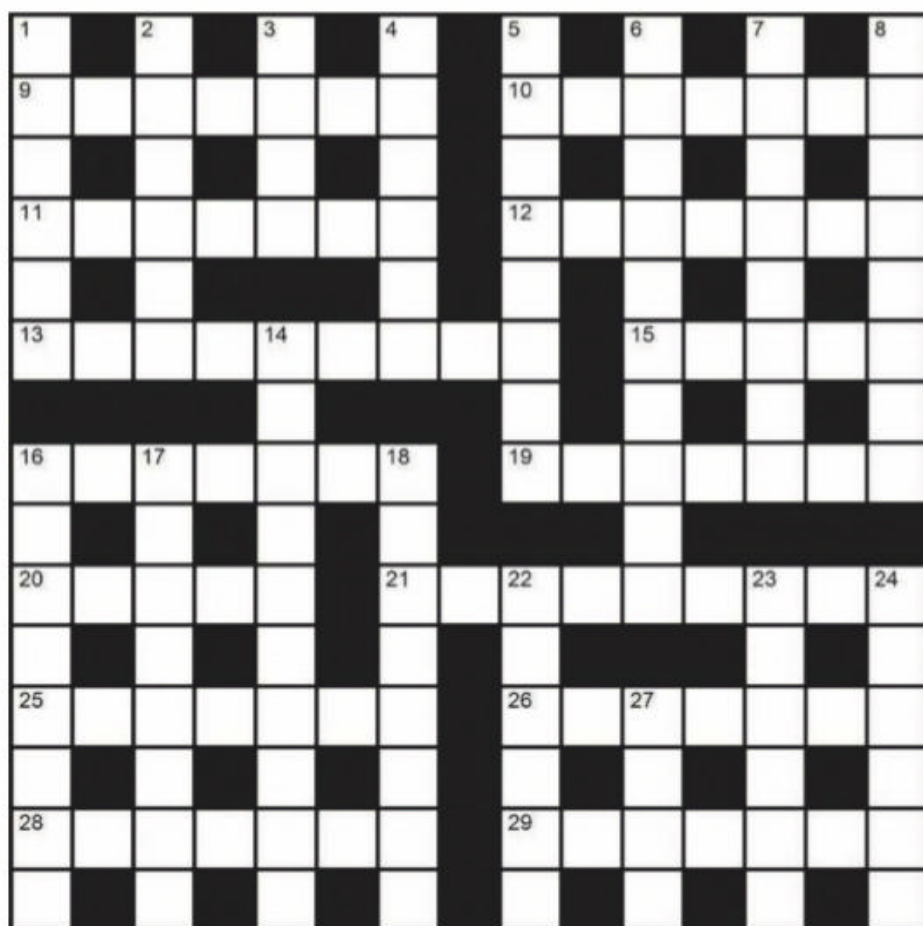
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CROSSWORD N° 68

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

- 9** Slave-ship seized by captives in an 1839 revolt (7)
10 Citizens of Ilium; subjects of Priam (7)
11 Coloured patterns woven in wool, illegal in Scotland from 1746 to 1782 (7)
12 Valley of south Wales associated historically with coal-mining (7)
13 1922 vampire film directed by FW Murnau (9)
15 Irish town on the River Fergus, linked in history to the O'Brien dynasty (5)
16 Fulgencio _____ (1901–73), ruler of Cuba, overthrown by the revolution of 1959 (7)
19 *Two Noble _____*, play

- of 1634 attributed to John Fletcher and William Shakespeare (7)
20 Term for a thermonuclear weapon first tested in the US in 1952 (1-4)
21 JB _____ (1894–1984), Bradford-born writer and broadcaster (9)
25 Roman goddess of wisdom (7)
26 Ronald _____ (1886–1926), English Modernist novelist (7)
28 Plant also known as monkshood, used historically as a poison (7)
29 Gabriel García _____ (1927–2014), Colombian author of 1967 novel *One Hundred Years Of Solitude* (7)

DOWN

- 1** William _____, 15th-century merchant and print innovator (6)
2 River on which the Mesopotamian cities of Nineveh and Ctesiphon stood (6)
3 European volcano that erupted disastrously in 1669 (4)
4 Russian city, scene of a 1905 workers' uprising (6)
5 Character in *Moby-Dick* (and inspiration for a coffee retailer) (8)
6 In the Bible, a general of Nebuchadnezzar, beheaded by Judith (10)
7 Concoction of opium and alcohol popularised by the 17th-century physician Thomas Sydenham (8)
8 *The Blind _____*, 2000 novel by Margaret Atwood (8)
14 Soviet-controlled sector of the German capital from 1945 to 1990 (4,6)
16 Inhabitant of a historical Czech territory (8)
17 Big Mama _____ (1926–84), US blues singer and songwriter (8)
18 Phoenician innovation of around 1200–500 BC (8)
22 'A date which will live in _____' – FD Roosevelt, on December 7, 1941 (6)
23 Hanseatic, Achaean or Arab, perhaps? (6)
24 Member of a Japanese gangster organisation that reached its peak in the 1960s (6)
27 'All things excellent are as difficult as they are _____' – Baruch Spinoza, 1677 (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

The Race To Save The Romanovs

by Helen Rappaport

On July 17 1918, the entire Russian Imperial Family was murdered. Through a range of previously unseen sources, this *Sunday Times* bestseller explores why the Romanovs' royal relatives and the Allied governments of Europe failed to save them. Published by Hutchinson, £25.



BOOK WORTH £25 FOR THREE WINNERS

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **History Revealed, May 2019 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE94 0AA** or email them to **may2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 June 2019**. By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.

SOLUTION N° 66



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The closing date and time is as shown under **How to Enter**, above. Entries received after that will not be considered. Entries cannot be returned. Entrants must supply full name, address and daytime phone number. Immediate Media Company (publishers of *History Revealed*) will only ever use personal details for the purposes of administering this competition, and will not publish them or provide them to anyone without permission. Read more about the Immediate Privacy Policy at www.immediatemediaco.co.uk/privacy-policy.

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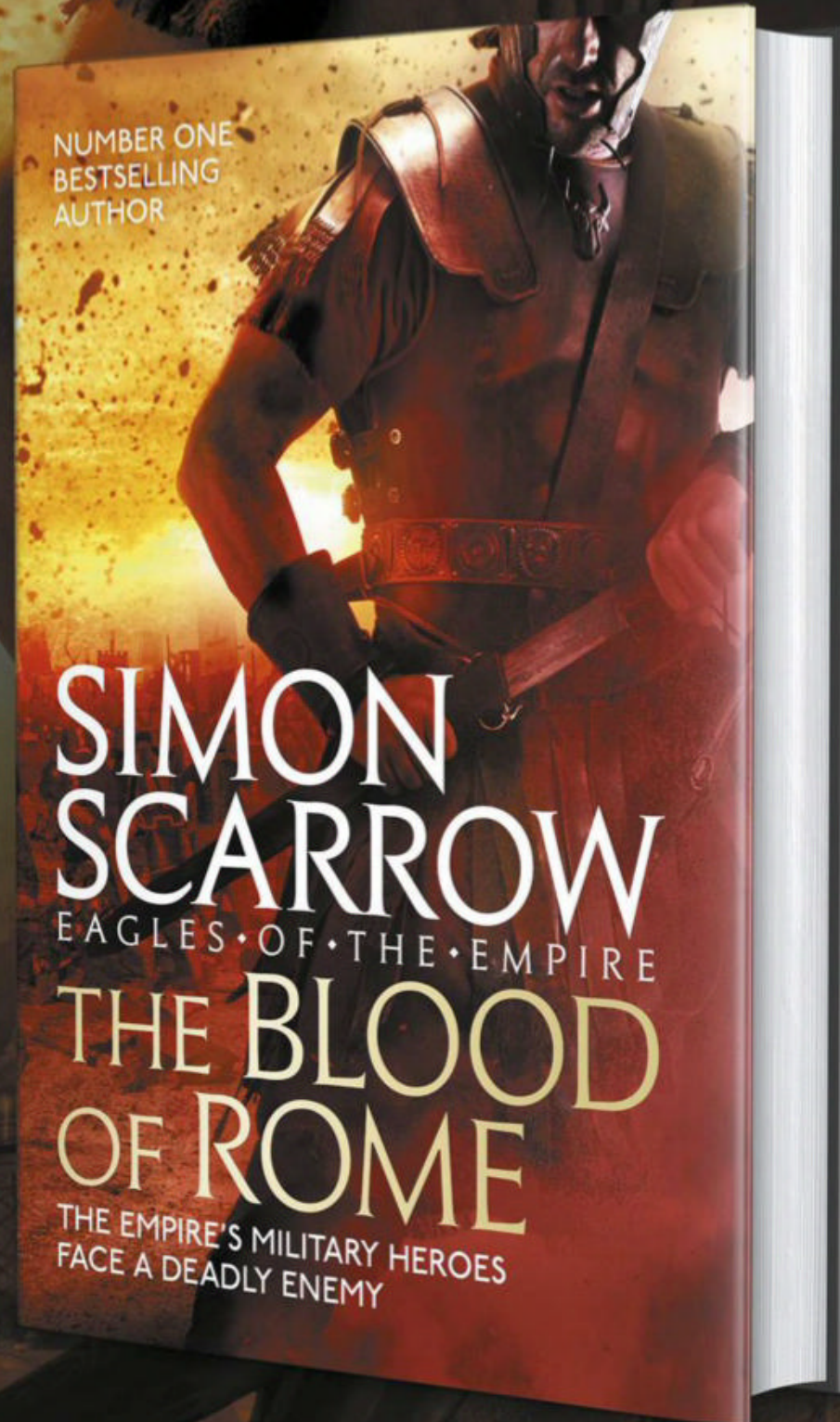
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During 1923, paper money in Germany was worth so little that children used it to play with. World War I had sent the country into debt and, when it fell behind on its reparation payments, France and Belgium occupied the industrial Ruhr Valley. Factories closed, but more money was printed for the workers. The economy suffered crippling rates of inflation, rendering the German mark worthless. A loaf of bread cost over 200,000 million marks by the end of the year.



SIMON SCARROW



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ON THE BATTLEFIELD

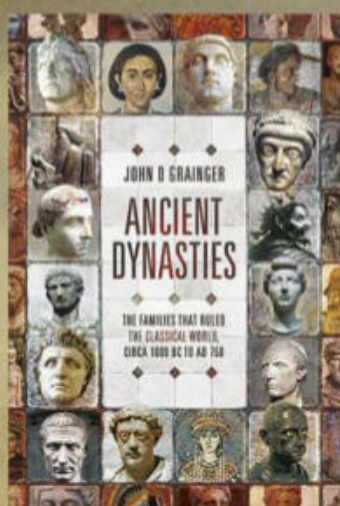
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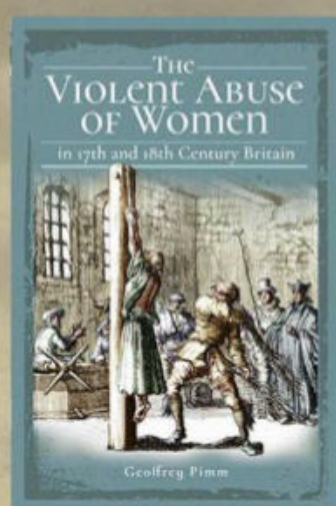
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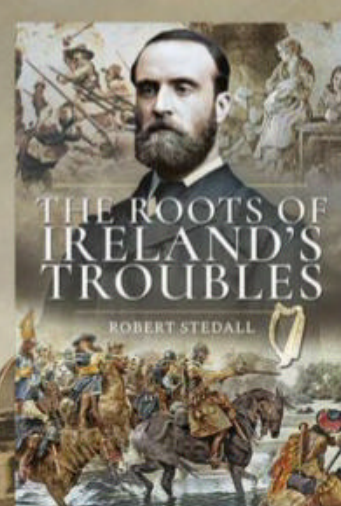
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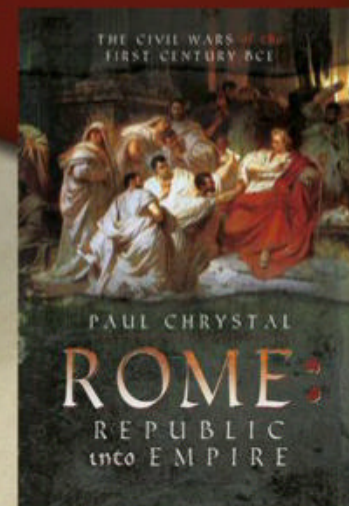
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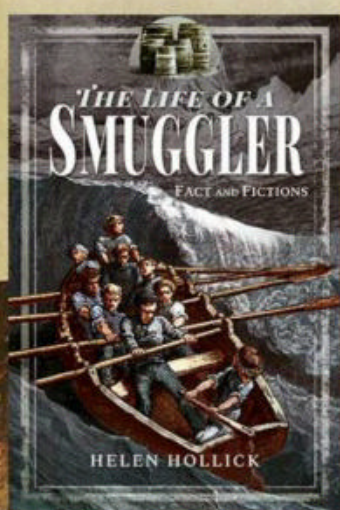
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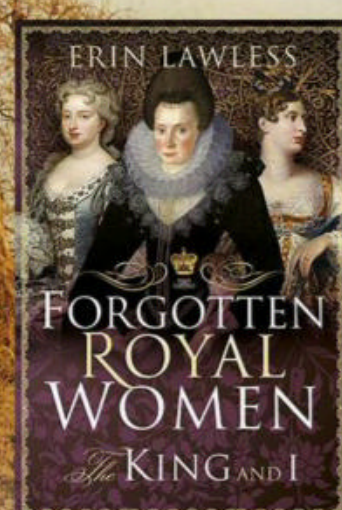
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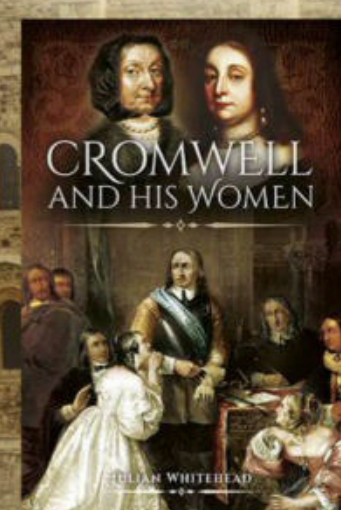
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